E/1991/26
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COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

REPORT ON THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

(11–20 February 1991)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1991

SUPPLEMENT No. 6

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SUMMARY

At its thirty-second session, the Commission for Social Development considered four main agenda items: review of the world social situation, monitoring of international plans and programmes of action, priority subjects concerning the integration of youth into society and strategies for social development cooperation, and programme questions.

In reviewing the world social situation, the Commission discussed the interim report of the Secretary-General thereon and adopted a resolution whereby it appealed to Governments to take up the study of social problems as a matter of the greatest urgency in order to successfully confront the social situation in the world. It recommended that the Council adopt a draft resolution concerning the critical social situation in Africa. In that draft resolution, the Council, having reiterated that the African economic and social crisis was a development crisis that concerned the international community as a whole and that greater realization of the rich physical and human potential of the continent should be an integral part of a common strategy to promote the economic and social advancement of peoples, would appeal to the international community to increase its cooperation and assistance to enhance the efforts made by the African countries for development; and would request the Secretary-General to direct the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to prepare a report on the critical social situation in Africa for submission to the Commission at its thirty-third session.

In its capacity as the preparatory body for the International Year of the Family, the Commission approved for implementation the draft programme for the Year. The Commission recommended to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption of a draft resolution, by which the Assembly would call upon Governments, specialized agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to undertake efforts to prepare for and observe the Year. It would also invite Member States to take prompt action to establish national mechanisms for the family, such as co-ordinating committees, and would welcome the creation by the Secretary-General of a Voluntary Trust Fund for the Preparation for and Observance of the Year.

In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/106, the Commission convened an informal, open-ended ad hoc working group on the question of ageing, which elaborated a set of "Principles for Older Persons", annexed to the draft resolution on the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

Further, to better confront the problems of disabled persons, the Commission adopted a resolution in which it decided, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/26, to establish an ad hoc, open-ended working group to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons. The working group will meet to finalize the text of the standard rules and will report to the General Assembly at its

forty-eighth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session and the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1993. In that resolution also, the Commission invited all Governments to participate actively in the preparation of the standard rules and make financial contributions to enable the working group to complete its task.

At its thirty-first session, the Commission had selected two priority topics for in-depth discussion at its thirty-second session. Preparation of the discussion for the first topic, the integration of young people into society, was made possible by the Government of Spain, which acted as host to an international symposium in June 1990. The report of the symposium provided background information for the Commission's discussion. The Commission recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution, by which the Council would decide that an open-ended ad hoc working group of the Commission should be established at the thirty-third session of the Commission in order to (a) review and appraise progress achieved and obstacles identified in implementing the objectives of the International Youth Year, (b) prepare a draft calendar of activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year and (c) prepare a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond.

The other topic to receive priority attention was the social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development cooperation. This topic was prepared by an expert group, which met at the invition of the Government of Finland in September 1990. After discussing the report on the meeting of the expert group, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution, by which the Council would endorse the views and suggestions contained in the report and request the Secretary-General to organize activities, including additional research, designed to elaborate further practical measures and techniques to achieve the goals of social progress and development; it would also request the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its first regular session of 1993, through the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session, on progress achieved and obstacles encountered in implementing the social development goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

Also concerning priority subjects, the Commission adopted a resolution on the in-depth consideration by the Economic and Social Council of major social policy themes. In emphasizing the need to maintain a balance between social and economic issues and also the role of the Commission in preparing social policy themes and effective follow-up action for discussion by the Economic and Social Council, the Commission recommended that the Council establish the practice of giving in-depth consideration to major policy themes, including social themes, to be discussed thoroughly at an appropriately high level and also recommended that the Council consider in the future, as appropriate,

major social policy themes after in-depth consideration by the Commission for Social Development.

After its deliberations on programme questions and other matters, the Commission, having reaffirmed the importance of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, recommended a draft decision for adoption by the Council, in which the Secretary-General would be requested to identify the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the focal point for social policy research and advisory services for countries undergoing economic and social policy adjustment.

Finally, the Commission reviewed the report of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. It then recommended a draft resolution for adoption by the Council, by which Governments would be invited to provide support to the Institute, including financial support. The Commission also nominated, for confirmation by the Council, five new members of the Board of the Institute.

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Chapter I

MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft resolutions

1. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Critical social situation in Africa*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 containing the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, which provides the framework for international cooperation in the field of social development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 39/29 of 3 December 1984 and 40/40 of 2 December 1985, which led to the convening of the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to the critical economic situation in Africa, at which the Assembly adopted by consensus resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, to which was annexed the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/46 of 24 May 1989, in which the Secretary-General was requested, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to prepare a report providing an in-depth evaluation of the critical social situation in Africa, paying particular attention to the obstacles to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action,

Recognizing that progress in the social and economic fields constitutes an essential priority for developing countries,

Taking into account the fact that in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, 1/ the Governments of African States reaffirmed their primary responsibility for the economic and social development of their countries, identified areas for priority action, and undertook to mobilize and utilize domestic resources for the achievement of their priority objectives,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

1/ A/40/666, annex I, declaration AHG/Decl.1 (XXI), annex.

Reiterating that the African social and economic crisis is a development crisis that concerns the international community as a whole and that greater realization of the rich physical and human potential of the continent should be an integral part of a common strategy to promote the economic and social advancement of peoples,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by African Governments in redressing some of the acute social problems confronting them,

Stressing that the prospects for concerted implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 are being affected by an unfavourable external economic environment, debt-servicing obligations and the rate of flow of development finance,

1. Takes note of the interim report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation; 2/

2. Appeals to the international community, the States members of the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to increase their cooperation and assistance to enhance the efforts made by the African countries to establish or improve their infrastructure, through the creation of a favourable economic environment;

3. Regrets that the report of the Secretary-General on the critical social situation in Africa, 3/ prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/46, failed to meet the requirements set out in paragraph 3 of that resolution;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to direct the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to prepare once again, for submission to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session, the report on the critical social situation in Africa, providing an in-depth evaluation of the critical social situation in Africa, paying particular attention to the obstacles to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, including the impact of structural adjustment policies on the social situation in Africa, in cooperation with the African Development Bank and, as appropriate, the Organization of African Unity;

5. Decides that the Commission for Social Development should consider at its thirty-third session the report on the critical social situation in Africa in the context of its review of the world social situation.

2/ A/46/56-E/1991/6 and Corr.1.

3/ E/CN.5/1991/8 and Corr.1.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action in the field of social development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987, in which it endorsed the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future 4/ and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to ensure the implementation of, and follow-up action to, the Guiding Principles,

Reaffirming the continued importance and value of strategies and plans of action in different social policy areas directly related to the Guiding Principles, notably those concerning the status of women, ageing, youth and disabled persons, as well as crime prevention and drug abuse, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 5/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 6/ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 6/ and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, 7/

Recalling its resolution 44/65 of 8 December 1989, in which it decided, inter alia, that social issues as conceived in the Guiding Principles should become a major part of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,

Stressing the validity of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/48 of 28 May 1987, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to redeploy resources to ensure appropriate follow-up action to the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes,

Concerned about the lack of appropriate follow-up action to the comprehensive programme of the Guiding Principles in the regions of

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

4/ E/CONF.80/10, chap. III.

5/ Resolution 217 A (III).

6/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

7/ Resolution 2542 (XXIV).

Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia,

1. Reaffirms the validity of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future as a major framework for action at the local, national, regional and international levels in the field of social welfare and development;

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on major issues and programme activities of the Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups; 8/

3. Stresses the interrelationship between economic growth and human welfare as one of the principal themes of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade; 9/

4. Appeals to Governments to make use of the Guiding Principles and to apply their recommendations, as appropriate and in accordance with their national structures, needs and objectives, to inform the Secretary-General of problems in their implementation and to accelerate the follow-up action to the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes;

5. Welcomes the inclusion of the implementation of the Guiding Principles in the medium-term plan for 1992-1997 10/ and the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, 11/ as requested in its resolution 44/65;

6. Urges the Secretary-General and the organizations of the United Nations system concerned to continue to include the implementation of the Guiding Principles in their programmes of work and to assist Governments, particularly those of the developing countries, in formulating appropriate social welfare policies in setting up effective programmes according to their needs;

7. Urges the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to give adequate attention to the recommendations for action at the regional level contained in the Guiding Principles;

8/ E/CN.5/1991/3 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1.

9/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

10/ A/45/6 (Prog.25).

11/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

8. Stresses the role of non-governmental and voluntary organizations in the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Guiding Principles, particularly in social crisis management, as reflected in the proceedings of the international expert meeting on the role of voluntary organizations in crisis management: acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, drug abuse and mass migration as cases in point, held at Berlin, from 18 to 22 November 1990;

9. Urges Member States in all regions to initiate regional expert group meetings devoted to issues raised in the Guiding Principles and to translate their recommendations into specific social policy activities;

10. Welcomes the idea of holding regional conferences, for example, the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs within the European Region, to be held in Czechoslovakia in 1992, and the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, to be held in the Philippines in October 1991;

11. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To strengthen the follow-up action to the Interregional Consultation by, inter alia, appropriately reflecting the Guiding Principles in global programmes and events, including the preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family; 12/

(b) To strengthen advisory services to Governments, especially those of developing countries, focusing on the policy, institution-building capacity, planning, administration and training aspects of developmental social welfare;

(c) To ensure that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Guiding Principles, is provided with sufficient resources, without incurring additional expenses, through the regular budget of the United Nations, for an effective follow-up to the Interregional Consultation;

(d) To reflect appropriately resource and programme requirements for monitoring the implementation of the Guiding Principles in the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993;

(e) To report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the progress achieved in the implementation of and follow-up action to the Guiding Principles and the present resolution;

12/ See resolution 44/82.

12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Wglfare Policies and Programmes in the Near future".

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family*

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989, in which it proclaimed 1994 as International Year of the Family, designated the Commission for Social Development as the preparatory body and the Economic and Social Council as the coordinating body for the Year, and requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of his report and in consultation with Member States, concerned specialized agencies and interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, a draft programme for the preparation for and observance of the Year,

Recalling also its resolution 45/133 of 14 December 1990, in which it invited Governments, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, as well as interested national organizations, to exert all possible efforts in the preparation for and observance of the Year, and requested the Secretary-General to finalize a draft programme for the preparation for and observance of the Year and to submit it for consideration by the Commission for Social Development at its session in 1991 and by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session,

Conscious of the existence of various concepts of the family in different socio-political and cultural systems,

Noting with satisfaction that the unanimous proclamation by the General Assembly of 1994 as International Year of the Family has increased the awareness and highlighted the importance of family issues among Governments, specialized agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as interested national organizations and, consequently, has promoted a

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

better knowledge of the economic, social and demographic processes affecting families and their members and has focused attention on the equal rights and responsibilities of all family members,

Expressing its appreciation to Governments, specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations concerned for the activities already taken up in support of the objectives of the International Year of the Family, thereby increasing awareness of family issues at local and national levels,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family", 13/

1. Approves for implementation the proposals of the Secretary-Gneral contained in his report;

2. Invites all Governments, specialized agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to step up all possible efforts in the preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family;

3. Welcomes the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Preparaton for and the Observance of the Year;

4. Reaffirms its invitation to all States to take prompt action to establish national mechanisms, such as coordinating committees, to prepare for, observe and follow up the Year, in particular for the purpose of planning, stimulating and harmonizing the activities of the governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations concerned with the preparation for and observance of the Year;

5. Requests the relevant United Nations preparatory and coordinating bodies for the Year to keep preparations for the Year under constant review;

6. Invites Governments to contribute, as far as possible, resources, including staff, to the secretariat of the Year;

7. Invites all Governments, specialized agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, as well as interested national organizations, to exert all possible efforts in the preparation for and observance of the Year and to cooperate closely with the Secretary-General in achieving the objectives of the Year;

13/ E/CN.5/1991/2.

8. Requests that in the planning and executing of programmes and activities for the Year, special attention should be given to socio-economic and cultural conditions in developing countries in the approach to family issues;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to provide effective means of coordination between the secretariat of the Year and the relevant non-governmental organizations in support of the Year;

10. Urges the Secretary-General to provide adequate staff to the secretariat of the Year and to reflect its strengthening in the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session on the state of preparations for the Year;

12. Invites the Commission for Social Development to ensure that all plans, programmes and activities related to the family are in accordance with the concept of equality between women and men as expressed in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 14/ and to ensure the incorporation into the programme of the Year of the principles relating to policies aimed at fostering equality between women and men, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General; 13/

13. Requests the Commission for Social Development to keep the Commission on the Status of Women informed of the preparations for the Year;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session an item entitled "International Year of the Family" and to discuss it on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Establishing and strengthening national coordinating committees on disability or similar bodies*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling relevant resolutions in which the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have requested the Secretary-General to assist Member States in establishing and strengthening national committees on

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

14/ Resolution 34/180, annex.

disability and similar coordinating bodies 15/ and, in particular, General Assembly resolution 42/58 of 30 November 1987, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to consider convening during the second half of the Decade, within existing resources, an interregional meeting of representatives of those committees or similar bodies, to enhance their capabilities,

Aware of the important role national coordinating committees have in furthering the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 16/

Noting with concern that the great majority of disabled people live in developing countries and noting especially the deteriorating economic and social conditions of many developing countries, which adversely affect vulnerable groups, including disabled people, and the special difficulties they have in tackling the problems related to disability,

Taking into account the fact that countries have different cultures, customs, traditions and socio-economic levels and that national programmes are most effective when they are best suited to the country's circumstances,

Noting with appreciation the convening of the International Meeting on Roles and Functions of National Coordinating Committees on Disability in Developing Countries at Beijing from 5 to 11 November 1990,

Having considered the development of guidelines for the establishment and development of national coordinating committees or similar bodies;

1. Requests the Secretary-General to widely disseminate the guidelines for the establishment and development of national coordinating committees on disability in all the official languages of the United Nations and in Braille, within existing resources and through voluntary contributions;

2. Also requests the Secretary-General to assist Member States in undertaking follow-up measures, especially training seminars, to promote the implementation of the guidelines;

3. Requests the Secretariat, in particular the regional commissions, to promote an exchange of information and experiences between national coordinating committees or similar bodies, at the regional level;

4. Urges the Secretariat, in particular the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations Development Programme

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15/ General Assembly resolutions 39/26, 40/31, 41/106, 42/58, 43/98, 44/70 and 45/91 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/52.

16/ A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

to play a major role in assisting Member States, in particular the least developed among them, in establishing and strengthening national coordinating committees or similar bodies;

5. Invites the Secretary-General to use resources available in the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons to assist Member States in setting up and strenthening national coordinating committees or similar bodies;

6. Calls upon Member States to establish national coordinating committees or similar bodies on a permanent basis and to provide them with the necessary staff and resources during and after the Decade, bearing in mind that their structure and methodology of work should be in conformity with the circumstances of the countries in which they are situated;

7. Recommends that the Secretary-General include the activities undertaken in relation to the Guidelines in future reports on disability-related programmes, and requests him to report to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1989/52 of 24 May 1989, in which it called upon Member States, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to further the practical implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, during the second half of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, based on the list of priorities and programmes set forth in the annex to General Assembly resolution 43/98 of 8 December 1988,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/91 of 14 December 1990, in which the Secretary-General was requested to shift the focus of the United Nations programme on disability from awareness-raising to action, with the aim of achieving a society for all by the year 2010 and of responding more appropriately to the many requests for assistance and advisory services,

Noting with appreciation the recommendations of the meeting of experts held at Järvenpää, Finland, from 7 to 11 May 1990, under the joint auspices of the Government of Finland and the United Nations, 17/

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

17/ See A/45/470.

Concerned about the very difficult situation of disabled persons living in developing countries and the vulnerability of disability-related programmes and projects, particularly during periods of economic restructuring,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the major issues and programme activities of the Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups, 8/

1. Welcomes the intiative of the Commission for Social Development in elaborating standard technical rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons;

2. Calls upon Member States, regional commissions, intergovernmental bodies and other relevant organizations, in cooperation with organizations of disabled persons, to adopt an integrated policy approach to disability issues as part of the overall efforts to strive for a sustainable social development strategy;

3. Requests the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to support pilot projects aimed at designing integrated disability policies in developing countries and to seek voluntary contributions for that purpose;

4. Invites Member States to review their policies and programmes with the aim of designing national annual priorities until the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons in 1992 and concrete long-term strategies to ensure the full implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons beyond the Decade;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to encourage the establishment of working groups funded by voluntary contributions to study and compare the implementation of national priorities;

6. Requests Member States to give concrete support to the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop activities benefiting disabled persons on a sustainable basis in countries with a special need for international support, particularly in developing countries;

7. Recommends that a meeting of experts, to be funded by voluntary contributions, be held in conjunction with the conference entitled "Independence 1992", to be organized in Canada by the British Columbia Pavillion Corporation, in cooperation with Disabled Peoples' International and other interested non-governmental organizations, with the primary objective of drawing up a long-term strategy to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the year 2000 and beyond;

8. Invites Member States to provide financial and technical support for the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop an international information network at the United Nations Office at Vienna;

9. Recommends to the General Assembly that, at its forty-seventh session, it devote four of its plenary meetings to mark, at the appropriate global level, the conclusion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons;

10. Requests the Commission for Social Development to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session an item entitled "Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action", and to discuss under that item a long-term strategy to further the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons beyond the Decade.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and related activities*

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/50 of 24 May 1989, in which the Council endorsed a draft programme of United Nations activities relating to the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, in 1992,

Pursuant to its resolution 45/106 of 14 December 1990, in which it endorsed the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the question of ageing, 18/ invited Member States, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to consider innovative and effective ways of cooperating on the selection of targets in the field of ageing during 1991 and 1992, and urged Member States, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to participate in the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond, especially in selecting targets in the field of ageing, in organizing community-wide activities and in launching an information and fund-raising campaign to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing at the local, national, regional and global levels,

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

18/ A/45/420.

Recalling that in resolution 45/106, it endorsed the convening of an ad hoc working group of the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session to monitor the activities for the tenth anniversary, especially the launching of a global information campaign, and the selection of targets that might form the basis of the third review and appraisal of the Plan of Action to be made by the Commission at its thirty-third session, in 1993, and recommended that the Commission give consideration to the desirability of convening, subject to the availability of funds, regional and sectoral meetings on the selection of targets on ageing during 1991 and 1992 and global consultations in 1993 and 1997,

Further recalling that, in resolution 45/106, it recognized the complexity and rapidity of the ageing of the world's population and the need to have a common basis and frame of reference for the protection and promotion of the rights of the elderly, including the contribution that the elderly can and should make to society,

Aware of the plight of the elderly in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, as well as those in difficult circumstances, such as refugees, migrant workers and victims of conflict,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1751 (LIV) of 16 May 1973 on the aged and social security,

1. Recommends that the United Nations define, on the basis of the recommendations of a small expert group meeting to be held in 1991, within existing resources, targets on ageing to provide a pragmatic focus for the broad and ideal goals of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, and issue them as "Targets on ageing: programme recommendations at the national level for the year 2001";

2. Urges Member States to identify their specific national targets on ageing for the year 2001, on the basis of the proposed targets on ageing;

3. Invites the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to develop, in consultation with United Nations organizations and bodies and international non-governmental organizations, a set of suggested global targets designed to support implementation of the national targets on ageing;

4. Recommends that the General Assembly devote four plenary meetings, that is, two working days, at its forty-seventh session to an international conference on ageing to consolidate a set of targets on ageing for the year 2001, and to celebrate on an appropriate global scale the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing;

5. Urges the United Nations to give special attention to implementing the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond;

6. Calls upon the Secretary-General to give all possible support, in the form of both regular and extrabudgetary resources, to the Ageing Unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, to enable it to fulfil its mandate as lead agency for the action programme on ageing;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to designate the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna as coordinator for the preparation of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and for the implementation of the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond;

8. Invites the Secretary-General to explore the feasibility of appointing an interregional adviser on ageing to assist developing countries in expanding their ability to respond effectively to the ageing of their populations;

9. Invites the United Nations to examine the feasibility of launching a service composed of experts who are elderly, modelled on the United Nations Volunteers;

10. Urges the United Nations Postal Administration, as called upon in General Assembly resolution 44/67 of 8 December 1989, to issue a stamp to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing;

11. Urges the United Nations to consider, on an exceptional basis, issuing a medal on ageing bearing the emblem of the World Assembly on Ageing to mark activities planned for the decade 1992-2001;

12. Decides to launch a global information campaign on the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond and welcomes the cooperation of the Department of Public Information and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in this endeavour;

13. Recommends that the United Nations provide further advisory services to countries in the process of development, change and transition, at their request, to ensure that the issue of ageing remains important in their social development programmes;

14. Adopts the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, based on the International Plan of Action on Ageing, annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

UNITED NATIONS PRINCIPLES FOR OLDER PERSONS*

To add life to the years that have been added to life

The General Assembly,

Appreciating the contribution that older persons make to their societies,

Recognizing that, in the Charter of the United Nations, the peoples of the United Nations declare, inter alia, their determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women, and of nations large and small, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Noting the elaboration of those rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 5/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 6/ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 6/ and other declarations to ensure the application of universal standards to particular groups,

In pursuance of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted by the World Assembly on Ageing and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982,

Appreciating the tremendous diversity in the situation of older persons, not only between countries but within countries and between individuals, which requires a variety of policy responses,

Aware that in all countries, individuals are reaching an advanced age in greater number and in better health than ever before,

Aware of the scientific research disproving many stereotypes about inevitable and irreversible declines with age,

Convinced that in a world characterized by an increasing number and proportion of older persons, opportunities must be provided for willing and capable older persons to participate in and contribute to the ongoing activities of society,

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* Based on the International Plan of Action on Ageing; see Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.

Mindful that the strains on family life in both developed and developing countries requires support for those providing care to frail older persons,

Bearing in mind the standards already set by the International Plan of Action on Ageing and the conventions, recommendations and resolutions of the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization and other United Nations entities,

Encourages Governments to incorporate the following principles into their national programmes whenever possible:

Independence

1. Older persons should have access to adequate food, water, shelter, clothing and health care through the provision of income, family and community support and self-help.

2. Older persons should have the opportunity to work or to have access to other income-generating opportunities.

3. Older persons should be able to participate in determining when and at what pace withdrawal from the labour force takes place.

4. Older persons should have access to appropriate educational and training programmes.

5. Older persons should be able to live in environments that are safe and adaptable to personal preferences and changing capacities.

6. Older persons should be able to reside at home for as long as possible.

Participation

7. Older persons should remain integrated in society, participate actively in the formulation and implementation of policies that directly affect their well-being and share their knowledge and skills with younger generations.

8. Older persons should be able to seek and develop opportunities for service to the community and to serve as volunteers in positions appropriate to their interests and capabilities.

9. Older persons should be able to form movements or associations of older persons.

Care

10. Older persons should benefit from family and community care and protection in accordance with each society's system of cultural values.

11. Older persons should have access to health care to help them to maintain or regain the optimum level of physical, mental and emotional well-being and to prevent or delay the onset of illness.

12. Older persons should have access to social and legal services to enhance their autonomy, protection and care.

13. Older persons should be able to utilize appropriate levels of institutional care providing protection, rehabilitation and social and mental stimulation in a humane and secure environment.

14. Older persons should be able to enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms when residing in any shelter, care or treatment facility, including full respect for their dignity, beliefs, needs and privacy and for the right to make decisions about their care and quality of life.

Self-fulfilment

15. Older persons should be able to pursue opportunities for the full development of their potential.

16. Older persons should have access to the educational, cultural, spiritual and recreational resources of society.

Dignity

17. Older persons should be able to live in dignity and security and be free of exploitation and physical or mental abuse.

18. Older persons should be treated fairly regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, disability or other status, and be valued independently of their economic contribution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VII

Integration of young people into society: participation, development, peace*

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the General Assembly in its resolution 40/14 of 18 November 1985 entitled "International Youth Year: Participation,

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* For the discussion, see chap. IV.

Development, Peace" requested the Commission for Social Development to examine, on a regular basis, specific youth issues,

Also considering that the General Assembly in its resolution 45/103 of 14 December 1990 requested the Secretary-General to prepare a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond in accordance with proposals to be submitted by Member States, the United Nations and non-governmental youth organizations and in consultation with the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Considering that the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1989/51 of 24 May 1989 and the General Assembly in its resolution 44/59 of 8 December 1989 requested the Commission for Social Development to prepare at its thirty-third session a draft programme of action to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace, in 1995, and to identify future strategies in the field of youth,

Considering that in its resolution 45/103 the General Assembly decided to devote a plenary meeting at its fiftieth session, in 1955, to youth questions,

Considering that the draft programme of action to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year and the draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond are subjects that require special attention, study and collaboration,

Taking into account, to that end, the deliberations and suggestions of the International Symposium on the Integration of Young People into Society, held at Toledo, Spain, from 4 to 8 June 1990, 19/ and other relevant international meetings,

1. Decides that an open-ended ad hoc working group of the Commission for Social Development should be established at the thirty-third session of the Commission:

(a) To review and appraise progress achieved and obstacles identified in implementing the objectives of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace;

(b) To prepare a draft calendar of activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year;

(c) To prepare a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond, taking into account regional youth programmes of action;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session for discussion by the open-ended ad hoc working group the draft calendar of activities and the draft world youth programme of action referred to in subparagraphs 1 (b) and (c) above.

19/ E/CN.5/1991/4 and Corr.1.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII

Strategies for social development cooperation*

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Social Progress and Development proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969,

Mindful of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, 4/ endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/55 of 24 May 1989 on the social dimension of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade,

Deeply concerned about the continuing deterioration of the social situation of many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries,

1. Notes with appreciation the convening of the Meeting of the Expert Group on the Social Impact of the Critical Economic Environment on Developing Countries: Strategies for Social Development Cooperation at Järvenpää, Finland, from 17 to 21 September 1990, under the joint auspices of the United Nations and the Government of Finland;

2. Endorses the views and suggestions contained in the report of the Expert Group 20/ and requests the Secretary-General to arrange for its wide dissemination, drawing particular attention to the suggestions and recommendations contained therein;

3. Invites organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and Member States to review their goals and operating procedures in the light of the considerations and suggestions offered by the Expert Group;

4. Calls upon all Member States to ensure that social concerns are fully integrated in all development cooperation projects and activities;

5. Further calls upon all Member States, in a spirit of cooperation and partnership between developed and developing countries, to promote sustained and sustainable development that reconciles economic growth with the

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* For the discussion, see chap. IV.

20/ E/CN.5/1991/5.

improvement of living standards, social welfare, environmental protection and democracy;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to organize activities, including additional research, designed to elaborate further practical measures and techniques to achieve the goals of social progress and development;

7. Urges Member States to associate themselves actively with such activities;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its first regular session of 1993, through the Commission for Social Development, on progress achieved and obstacles encountered in implementing the social development goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 9/ and on the progress made in elaborating the suggestions and recommendations of the Expert Group.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IX

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 31/2 adopted by the Commission for Social Development on 22 March 1989, 21/

Recognizing the importance of research on social issues for the formulation and implementation of development policies, and considering the functions of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the important contribution made by the Institute in that area,

Recognizing also that the Institute has complied with the recommendations of the Commission for Social Development in past years, particularly with regard to its catalytic role and its support for research carried out by national research bodies,

Stressing the need to ensure that the Institute has the capacity to implement its overall programme,

Considering the appeal made on various occasions by the Board of the Institute to the Commission for an increase in the number of donor countries,

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* For the discussion, see chap. V.

21/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 7 (E/1989/25), chap. I, sect. D.

Having considered the report of the Board of the Institute on its activities during the period from 1 November 1989 to 31 October 1990, 22/

1. Takes note of the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development;

2. Expresses its appreciation to Governments providing financial support to the Institute;

3. Invites those Governments that have not yet done so to make financial contributions to the Institute according to their ability, and those Governments that already support the Institute to consider increasing their contribution, in both cases on a regular or project-by-project basis;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide financial and other administrative services to the Institute in line with its original status.

B. Draft decisions

2. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-second session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-third session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-second session, and endorses the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission;

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-third session of the Commission set out below.

22/ E/CN.5/1991/6.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Review of the world social situation.

Under this item the Commission will review social conditions and issues of global concern, giving particular emphasis to the context of the changing world economy and the implications of these changes for social policies and programmes. Special attention will be given to the actual situation and particular problems in Africa and the least developed countries.

Emphasis will be placed on the review of new approaches and methods for the solution of problems based, inter alia, on recent national experience.

Documentation

1993 Report on the World Social Situation

Report of the Secretary-General on the critical social situation in Africa (draft resolution I above)

4. Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action.

Under this item, the Commission will monitor the implementation of international plans and programmes of action - specifically, the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, the International Plan of Action on Ageing, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992) - and their follow-up arrangements, as well as the social components of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. In its capacity as preparatory body for the International Year of the Family, the Commission will review progress made in the preparation for and the observance of the Year, and will offer guidance for possible follow-up action to the Year.

The Commission will review concurrently the relevant activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in the field of social development, including technical co-operation activities, in particular those relating to social planning and national capacity-building in social policy design and implementation, and to developmental social welfare, cooperatives, community and local-level action and family issues, as well as activities, reports and strategies relating to youth, ageing and disabled persons. The Commission will receive reports from the regional

commissions on their social development and social welfare activities, as well as reports on relevant expert group meetings.

The Commission will also consider under this item a sub-item for in-depth discussion entitled "Development of a long-term strategy to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the year 2000, with particular emphasis on national policies".

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the major issues and programme activities of the Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups (Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/20 and draft resolutions II, IV, V, VI and VII above)

Report of the Secretary-General on the preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family (draft resolution III above)

Report of the meeting of experts, to be held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1992, in conjunction with the conference entitled "Independence 1992" on the subject of a long-term strategy to implement the World Programme of Action concerning disabled persons to the year 2000 and beyond (draft resolution V above)

Report of the ad hoc open-ended working group to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons (Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/26 and Commission resolution 32/2 above)

Note by the Secretary-General containing a draft calendar of activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace and a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond (draft resolution VII above)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved and obstacles encountered in implementing the social development goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (draft resolution VIII above)

5. Priority subjects.

Under this item, the Commission will consider in depth the social consequences of population growth and changing social conditions with particular emphasis on the family, bearing in mind the various concepts of the family in different political, social and cultural systems.

The Commission will consider the conclusions and recommendations of relevant expert group meetings, focusing on policy measures and taking into account the special concerns of the developing countries.

Documentation

Report of the expert group meeting on the social consequences of population growth and changing social conditions with particular emphasais on the family

6. Other matters.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission.

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-third session.

DRAFT DECISION II

Programme questions

The Economic and Social Council, reaffirming the importance of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987, and the need to translate them into concrete action, decides to request the Secretary-General to identify the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the focal point for social policy research and advisory services for countries undergoing economic and social policy adjustment and to report to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session on the progress achieved in that area.

C. Decision calling for action by the Council

3. The following decision adopted by the Commission calls for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Decision 32/101. Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

At its 12th meeting, on 20 February 1991, the Commission decided to nominate, for confirmation by the Economic and Social Council, the following candidates for membership in the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development:

For a four-year term, beginning on 1 July 1991:

Kinhide MUSHAKOJI (Japan);

Guillermo O'DONNELL (Argentina);

Rehman SOBHAN (Bangladesh);

Fahima CHARAF-EDDINE (Lebanon);

Georgina DUFOIX (France).

D. Resolutions and decisions brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following resolutions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 32/1. World social situation

The Commission for Social Development,

Taking into account the mandate assigned to it by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 830 J (XXXII) of 2 August 1961 to advise the Council on social policies of a general character and give particular attention to policies designed to promote social progress,

Taking into account the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, annexed to General Assembly resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990,

Taking into account the most recent reports of the Secretary-General on the world social situation, as well as reports on various aspects of that situation prepared by the relevant specialized agencies,

Considering the importance, magnitude, gravity and implications at the national, regional and world level, at the present time, of fundamental social problems and the possibility that they will worsen in the foreseeable future,

Considering that a large part of the world population, chiefly in developing countries and above all in the least developed countries, is not normally able to count on adequate food, nutrition, clothing and housing, pure water, education, medical and hospital services, transport and communications, retirement benefits, and other types of community assistance; that in the most extreme cases, this is reflected in the abject poverty and hunger that affect around 900 million of the people of the world; and that meeting the indispensable minimum requirements for human life, improving the quality of life, establishing equality of opportunity in participating in economic, social and political activities and achieving greater security in income distribution should be a matter of priority concern,

Convinced that if the situation described above continues, it will result in further instability and will affect and may jeopardize international peace and security,

Considering that the Commission for Social Development would be failing in its duty were it not to draw, most explicitly and with total conviction, the attention of the public, Governments, public and private institutions involved in social development and social welfare, the media, families and individuals to the present alarming social situation in the world and its foreseeable future development,

Stressing the need for the United Nations to speak with a clearer and more coherent voice regarding the principal problems before it, including matters universally recognized as vital to development in its deepest sense and to the achievement of social and political stability based on justice, and also stressing the need to strengthen the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as a focal point for dealing with social questions,

1. Appeals, therefore, to Governments to take up the study of the problem as a matter of the greatest urgency for the purpose of making it possible, by means of programmes and activities undertaken at both the national and the international level, to successfully confront the social situation in the world, using the most appropriate and effective means available;

2. Proposes that future reports on the world social situation be restructured and include contributions prepared by the regional commissions to better reflect the actual regional situation in the area of social development;

3. Invites the United Nations to devote attention to the requirements regarding actions and activities on behalf of specific population groups, within the framework of the relevant international plans and programmes of action, including the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, annexed to General Assembly resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, and requests the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to take action-oriented measures to promote the proper integration of such population groups into society.

Resolution 32/2. Establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/26 of 24 May 1990, in paragraph 1 of which the Council authorized the Commission for Social Development to consider, at its thirty-second session, the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group of government experts, funded by voluntary contributions, to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled children, youth and adults,

1. Decides in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/26, paragraph 1, to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group of government experts;

2. Decides that the working group should complete its work in a maximum of three sessions, each of five working days, the results to be submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session;

3. Decides, in accordance with Council resolution 1990/26, paragraph 2, to finalize the text of those rules for consideration by the Council at its first regular session of 1993 and for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

4. Calls upon Member States from all regions to participate actively in the preparation of the rules;

5. Also calls upon Member States to make special financial contributions to enable such rules to be prepared;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to instruct the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to provide the requisite secretariat support.

Resolution 32/3. In-depth consideration of major social policy themes by the Economic and Social Council

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/175 of 18 December 1990, entitled "Rationalization of the work of the Third Committee",

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/77 of 29 July 1988 and 1989/114 of 28 July 1989 and decision 1990/205 of 9 February 1990,

Emphasizing the need to maintain a balance between social and economic issues,

Emphasizing also its role in preparing social policy themes and effective follow-up action to be discussed by the Economic and Social Council,

1. Invites Member States to be represented in the discussion on major social policy issues at the first regular session of 1991 of the Economic and Social Council, at an appropriately high level, without excluding the ministerial level, with a view to the effective consideration of those issues;

2. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council establish the practice of giving in-depth consideration to the major policy themes, including social themes agreed upon by the Council, to be discussed thoroughly at an appropriately high level, without excluding the ministerial level, at its first regular session, beginning with the priority theme for 1992 "Eradication of poverty in the developing countries, including the impact of structural adjustment programmes on vulnerable groups";

3. Recommends also that the Economic and Social Council consider in the future, as appropriate, major social policy themes after in-depth consideration by the Commission for Social Development;

4. Recommends further that the Economic and Social Council consider, in close collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission for Social Development and other relevant entities of the Secretariat, ways and means of providing the Council with all the necessary input and support, particularly materials required for the thematic analysis of the above-mentioned major policy theme, as well as policy recommendations and decisions resulting from its deliberations for consideration and appropriate action by the Council;

5. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to its decision 1990/205, select a major social policy theme for in-depth consideration at its first regular session of 1993, taking into account in particular the priority issues adopted and prepared by the Commission for Social Development for consideration at its thirty-third session.

5. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Decision 32/102. Social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development cooperation

At its 12th meeting, on 20 February 1991, the Commission decided to transmit to the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-fifth session, for information, the note by the Secretary-General entitled "Social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development cooperation" (E/CN.5/1991/5).

Decision 32/103. Programme questions

At its 12th meeting, on 20 February 1991, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General on thge draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 (E/CN.5/1991/CRP.1 and Add.1) and the note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members by the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/1991/7).

Chapter II

REVIEW OF THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION

6. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st to 4th, 10th and 11th meetings, on 11, 12, 19 and 20 February 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Interim report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation (A/46/56-E/1991/6 and Corr.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the critical social situation in Africa (E/CN.5/1991/8 and Corr.1).

7. The Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs introduced the interim report on the world social situation. He drew the attention of the Commission to the broad sweep of radical changes bringing about democracy and freedom of choice in the economic and social spheres in Europe and in developing countries and to the new opportunities and challenges arising therefrom. He also pointed to the urgent need for relief and assistance to those most seriously affected by the Gulf crisis and the long-term need to respond to the social consequences of the crisis.

8. The interim report provided an update of the main social issues and trends, including institutional changes, the growing concern with social welfare issues, problems of the environment that arose in the process of development, drug abuse and the question of making available for development resources released from the cessation of the competitive build-up of armaments. From that and other work of the Department, it was evident that economic and social conditions had deteriorated sharply in many developing countries, especially in Africa, where poverty had grown faster than elsewhere. Those declines had affected the weakest and the most vulnerable segments of society, including women, more severely than others. After a protracted period of adjustment, Governments were still locked into the dilemma of protecting domestic social and economic stability or sustaining international payment obligations. To reverse those tendencies and to revive sustainable growth, international conditions conducive to growth were necessary, in addition to sound domestic policies. Such growth must benefit all population groups, alleviate conditions of poverty and protect the environment.

9. The draft framework for the 1993 Report on the World Social Situation contained in the annex to the interim report had kept in perspective the need to consider economic and social progress as an integral process. It would also balance the discussion on social conditions with the policy analysis. He sought the guidance of the Commission in improving the framework.

10. The Commission briefly reviewed factors contributing to the current world social situation, especially in developing countries. It took note of the

fall in international terms of trade, the continuing external debt burden, the heavy net transfer of resources from developing to developed countries and the adverse social consequences of adjustment programmes, as well as ill-advised domestic policies and internal conflicts, all of which had contributed to the drastic fall in economic and social well-being, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. The Commission emphasized the necessity of reversing those tendencies during the 1990s. Several representatives pointed out that official development assistance provided by developed countries was half the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product. The Commission took note of the massive and far-reaching changes in evidence in Eastern Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and stressed the need for tracing the social consequences of those and other political transformations.

11. The Commission noted that the economic problems of the 1980s had had severe adverse effects on the social situation in sub-Saharan Africa. Much of Africa suffered from abject poverty, food self-sufficiency remained a distant goal and resources for education, health and other social services had to be cut in the course of structural adjustment programmes. The international community should pay attention to the current problems in Africa, which were in desperate need of solutions.

12. The Commission noted the broad framework proposed for the 1993 Report on the World Social Situation. Many representatives suggested areas for emphasis, subjects for closer attention and the need for great care and circumspection in the presentation of information. One representative questioned the usefulness of the report to Governments and other institutions and suggested that the 1993 Report contain in an annex the comments of Governments of Member States on the usefulness of the report.

13. The Commission emphasized several factors that could enhance the 1993 Report. It should take account of the controversial nature of some central questions in social development, especially in economies in transition, where genuine conflicts might emerge between social justice and economic efficiency and growth. Social development experience was variegated and solutions to those problems were not simple. An analysis of the variety of experience would contribute to a highly fruitful exchange of experience. The 1993 Report should also contain an analysis of the causes of the deterioration of social conditions. Several representatives emphasized that the 1993 Report should contribute to improving the quality of social indicators, take into account difficulties in international comparisons and place more emphasis on practical measures to solve social problems.

14. Several representatives highlighted the importance of selected aspects of the social situation. Inequalities in wealth, income and social conditions between developed and developing countries, as well as within each of those groups, constituted a major problem. The reduction of inherited inequality and improvements in access to services were conditions necessary for reducing some of those gross inequalities. There was always the danger that private ownership of wealth would invariably give rise to some inequalities in income and wealth. The eradication of conditions of poverty among one fifth of the world's population should be an objective of the highest priority.

15. One representative said that self-reliance was the most important concept for developing countries in their national plans and programmes.

16. Some representatives pointed to the need to keep track of the continuing debate on the welfare state and the emerging social security schemes in economies in transition. In all countries there were healthy tendencies to decentralize the administration of social development policies and to seek the participation of non-governmental organizations. The family and the individual played important roles in promoting social welfare and in improving social conditions. Several representatives stressed the importance of integrating women, young people, the aged and the disabled, as well as ethnic and religious minorities, into the mainstream of economic and social activity. Several representatives drew attention to the process of ageing in their societies and to the need for adequate policies.

17. Social problems arising from large-scale migration between countries were likely to gain in importance during the next few years. The nature and magnitude of problems related to alcohol and drug abuse and policies and programmes to combat them also deserved special attention. Damage to the environment from many sources, including disasters such as that at Chernobyl, and the means of arresting such disasters and mitigating their dreadful consequences were important questions. One representative pointed out that if the United Nations were to succeed in maintaining international security, the diversion of resources to armaments production would cease to be a severe problem.

18. Many representatives informed the Commission of the social situation in their countries and of innovative means of finding solutions to social problems.

19. Several representatives said that the report of the Secretary-General on the critical social situation in Africa (E/CN.5/1991/8 and Corr.1 did not deal with many of the underlying issues and that the information contained in it did not provide new insights. They suggested that a full and detailed study should be carried out in cooperation with the relevant international institutions, including the African Development Bank.

Action taken by the Commission

1. World social situation

20. At the 10th meeting, on 19 February, the representative of Argentina, on behalf of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, 23/ the Dominican Republic and Haiti, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.5/Rev.1) entitled "The world social situation". Subsequently, Bolivia 23/ and Ecuador joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

23/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

21. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The Chairman also made a statement.

22. At the 11th meeting, on 20 February, the Secretary of the Commission read out revisions to the draft resolution that had been agreed upon during informal consultations.

23. The Commission then adopted the draft resolution, as revised (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 32/1).

2. Critical social situation in Africa

24. At the 10th meeting, on 19 February, the representative of Ghana, on behalf of the African States, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.6) entitled "Critical social situation in Africa", and orally revised it by deleting the words "particularly that of a concessionary nature" after the words "rate of flow of development finance" at the end of the last preambular paragraph. Subsequently, China and the Netherlands 23/ joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

25. At the 11th meeting, on 20 February, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

Chapter III

MONITORING OF INTERNATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

26. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 4th to 6th, 10th and 11th meetings, on 12, 13, 19 and 20 February 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family (E/CN.5/1991/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on major issues and programme activities of the Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups (E/CN.5/1991/3 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1).

A. Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future

27. The Director of the Social Development Division of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs noted that the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future (E/CONF.80/10, chap. III) dealt with the question of achieving acceptable levels of social welfare within society by action at three distinct policy levels. At the macro-level, there was concern about the adjustment of macro-economic strategies in order to limit any negative effect upon the welfare of broad sections of the population and to maximize opportunities for effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development. At the meso-level, the Guiding Principles provided suggestions for adjustments in sectoral policy areas, particularly in employment, education and health, as well as in policies on the protection, support and advancement of the broad sections of the population that were particularly vulnerble or disadvantaged, with a view to reinforcing the existing, and much more comprehensive, strategies contained in several global plans and programmes of action. At the micro-level, the Guiding Principles dealt with the needs of particularly disadvantaged categories of persons by means of recommendations concerning social welfare measures oriented towards the individual, the family and the community. Those recommendations included both preventive measures and policy measures to realize more fully the potential of individuals, thereby making better use of human resources.

28. Many representatives considered that the Guiding Principles provided a valid framework for action at the national level; however, much more vigorous efforts were required to promote and strengthen their implementation at the international level.

29. Particular importance was attached to enhanced regional cooperation. Representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) elaborated on the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General. The representative of ESCAP suggested that the regional social development strategy to the year 2000 and beyond, initiated by ESCAP and the United Nations Development Programme, provided a mechanism for follow-up of the Guiding Principles that might be emulated in other regions. The representative of the European Community, referred to the measures undertaken to promote economic and social development particularly for vulnerable groups and specific regions; he also referred to the assistance programme for developing countries in which the social dimension was included. Representatives of European countries pointed to a recent rapid evolution of institutional mechanisms and programme activities designed to ensure an effective regional cooperation within what was described as the future "European social space". The contributions to that evolution made by the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs and its permanent Bureau, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Council of Europe and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research were brought to the attention of the Commission by a number of representatives. The hope was expressed by several representatives that cooperation might include more frequent meetings of the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs and further involvement by the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, whose sources of financing should be widened to achieve a greater balance between the contributions of its host country and those of other Governments of the region. There was a call for the establishment of a European forum to permit representation of Governments, intergovernmental organizations within and outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and individual scholars in discussions of social policy at the regional level.

30. With respect to social development in Europe and implementation of the Guiding Principles by developing countries, some representatives stressed the need for a more positive economic environment, including forms of structural adjustment that would not negate attempts to achieve social welfare and justice. There was a need to focus attention on a number of specific social problems, including the vastly expanded movement of migrants, displaced persons and refugees, as well as such increasingly serious problems as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and alcohol abuse. A number of representatives called upon the United Nations to devote greater attention to international migration, by means of an expert meeting organized jointly by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, and to the social consequences of alcohol abuse and AIDS by means of follow-up action by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other specialized agencies, to initiatives taken at expert meetings held at Oslo and Berlin, the reports of which had been made available to the Commission.

31. Several representatives called for greater contributions to the social development area by the funding agencies of the United Nations system. They said that the Commission itself, and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs as its substantive secretariat, should be strengthened. Several delegations expressed disappointment that social activities of the United Nations were still sometimes treated as activities of minor importance. That was reflected in the fact that, unlike a number of other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission for Social Development met only every second year. Moreover, Governments did not take full advantage of other available institutional arrangements. The first regular session of 1991 of the Economic and Social Council might give attention to achieving an effective harmonization of the specialized agencies with the United Nations in dealing with social problems and might focus on a few priority social problems each year, while the Third Committee of the General Assembly might focus on developing more effective means of international intervention. Within the Commission itself, discussion might consist less of delivery of prepared statements and much more of an open exchange of views.

32. Some representatives pointed out that the secretariat of the Commission, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, did not have sufficient resources to carry out the mandates: it was deplorable that its units dealing with, for example, the implementation of international strategies for the aged and for disabled persons each had only three Professional staff members and could function effectively only by means of voluntary contributions received from a few Governments. Several delegations stated with regret that, contrary to the intentions of the Secretary-General, some social activities were still undertaken outside the United Nations Office at Vienna and therefore it could not claim to be the exclusive office for all United Nations social and related activities, which from a substantive point of view would be highly desirable. Some representatives called for the strengthening of the United Nations Office at Vienna without reallocating funds from other United Nations programmes. One representative noted that the representation of the developing countries in the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs was very low and hoped that the situation would soon be improved.

B. Implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth

33. The Director of the Social Development Division noted that intergovernmental organizations had given new mandates, particularly in respect of preparations to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year in 1995. A draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond was under preparation, based on the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth (A/40/256, annex, chap. III), which were endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/14). The Commission would discuss youth issues under agenda items 4 and 5 and could thus take the opportunity of making new plans for the

United Nations youth programme and could become even more actively involved in monitoring its implementation.

34. Several representatives described national experiences in monitoring the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth. While progress has been achieved in establishing national coordinating committees on youth or similar mechanisms, as well as in developing integrated youth policies and programmes, numerous problems that continued to confront youth were cited. They included the negative effect of economic trends and adjustment policies, which had contributed to continuing illiteracy, inadequate education and health services, and unemployment, as well as lack of participation in decision-making, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, AIDS, poor nutrition and sanitation, and the erosion of the family.

35. One observer stressed the importance of youth policies and programmes in such areas as education, training, mobility and better cultural understanding, and referred to the Young Workers Programme and Youth for Europe Programme of the Commission of the European Communities. He noted that such activities were especially important in the context of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, annexed to General Assembly resolution 45/199, particularly in respect to the measures undertaken to promote integration in the European Community by 1992.

36. The representative of ECA described numerous socio-economic problems confronting youth in Africa and cited issues such as rural-urban migration, unemployment, juvenile delinquency, poor health (especially as a consequence of AIDS) and problems related to providing safe water and sanitation. She noted the need for a more effective mobilization of African youth in development efforts and the important role of national youth organizations in that field.

37. A few representatives made proposals for strengthening international cooperation, including cooperation between the United Nations system and non-governmental youth organizations. Representatives of the latter might work temporarily in the Youth Unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs as a means of strengthening such cooperation. One representative stressed the importance of effective programmes to combat drug abuse among young people and noted the vital role of the family in strengthening ethical and moral values and in ensuring that youth were not abandoned to the pressures of consumerism.

38. One representative stressed the need to promote youth employment, nothing that, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 44/59, a draft memorandum of understanding had been agreed upon by the United Nations and the Institute of HOPE '87, a youth employment programme financed by the Government of Austria with over 400 projects in developing countries.

C. Review of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

39. The Commission reviewed the monitoring of the International Plan of Action on Ageing. 24/ Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/106, the Commission had established an open-ended ad hoc working group on the question of ageing to monitor preparations for the tenth anniversary, in 1992, of the adoption of the International Plan of Action. The Assembly, in the same resolution, had urged Member States, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to participate in the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond, especially in selecting targets on ageing, in organizing community-wide activities and in launching an information and fund-raising campaign to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action at the local, national, regional and global levels. In introducing the reports, the Director of the Social Development Division stressed the importance of taking pre-emptive action to offset anticipated socio-political and economic changes that were bound to occur with the ageing of the world's population.

40. Many representatives said that they appreciated the efforts being made to commemorate the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and believed that the international community should take that opportunity to increase public awareness and encourage practical programmes dealing with the question of ageing.

41. Several representatives drew attention to the demographic transition that was leading to far-reaching changes in the age structure of populations. The elderly, defined as persons aged 60 years and above, had numbered 432 million in 1985, equal to 8.8 per cent of the global population; by the year 2025, that group would comprise nearly 15 per cent, or 1,201 million, of the global population. Ageing had, therefore, become a priority issue in an increasing number of Member States. Coping with the impact of that change was viewed as one of the major tasks of the near future.

42. One of the most important policy concerns, according to some representatives, was the maintenance of people's autonomy as they grew older. To that effect, several Governments had formulated policies to improve the living standard of the elderly; to increase their financial assistance through a pension system; to extend the coverage of the pension system; to reintegrate unemployed elderly into the labour market; to combat age stereotypes, and to promote self-help initiatives among the elderly. The role of voluntary and non-governmental organizations was appreciated by many representatives and some called upon non-governmental organizations to assist them in coping with the acute shortage of support facilities for vulnerble groups such as the aged.

24/ Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.

43. Some representatives drew attention to the demographic projects which showed that an overwhelming majority of the world's elderly population would be concentrated in developing countries and that the African continent would be hardest hit. During the 1980s, the African region had experienced sharply declining standards of living. Reduced social expenditure had adversely affected the elderly. Concern was expressed about the failure of some of the structural adjustment measures to address the human and social dimensions of development. Several representatives therefore hoped that a concerted effort would be made by the international community to pay attention to the plight of the elderly in developing countries in general, and the African region in particular.

44. The process of modernization was gradually eroding the privileged position that the elderly enjoyed in many traditional societies. To care for the elderly was an integral part of traditional family functions. However, changing family structures resulting from urbanization, migration, economic crises and war had left many of the elderly destitute. As one representative described it, death from old age often meant death from starvation. It was essential that the Commission address the issue. To that effect, one representative presented a draft declaration on the rights of the elderly.

45. It was pointed out that institutional development in response to population ageing had been growing. One representative reported that a new ministry for family affairs and senior citizens had recently been created; another representative mentioned the newly established European Exchange Centre on Gerontology, which would collect, exchange and disseminate information in the field of gerontology; and a third representative reported on plans to establish a research institute on ageing. In addition, the current and planned activities of the International Institute on Ageing, Malta, were reported on, with emphasis given to the completed training of 170 participants from developing countries.

46. In line with the Plan of Action, some representatives informed the Commission that the European Community had formulated a medium-term European Plan of Action on Ageing for the period 1991-1993. Special attention would be paid to intergenerational solidarity and integration of the elderly in society. In that context, the year 1993 had been declared the European Year of the Elderly and Solidarity among Generations.

47. Addressing themselves to the question of inadequate financial and personnel resources of the United Nations Office at Vienna, several representatives expressed regret that the secretariat unit responsible for the global programme on ageing - a problem that affected millions of people - consisted of only three Professional staff members. The unit should be strengthened and, some representatives stressed, the United Nations should intensify its efforts and operational activities in the field of ageing.

D. Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons during the second half of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

48. In his introductory statement, the Director of the Social Development Division highlighted the major breakthroughs achieved in the field of disability within the past two years: the standard-setting accomplishments of the 1989 Tallinn Guidelines for Action on Human Resources Development in the Field of Disability (General Assembly resolution 44/70, annex) and the guidelines for the establishment and development of national coordinating committees on disability, adopted by the International Meeting on Roles and Functions of National Coordinating Committees on Disability in Developing Countries, held at Beijing in November 1990.

49. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons said that progress had been achieved in many countries and stressed the important role non-governmental organizations had played in making that progress possible. He emphasized the great need for strengthening disabled persons' organizations in countries where progress had to be increased.

50. Several representatives expressed their appreciation of the positive results of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 37/53 of 3 December 1982, and expressed the hope that the progress achieved could be sustained after the Decade. A number of representatives reported on the progress made in the disability programmes in their countries. It was stated, however, that the goals of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, were far from being achieved.

51. Many representatives welcomed the shift of focus of the United Nations Disability Programme from awareness-raising to action. They stressed that the United Nations should expand operational activities in the disability field. In that regard, the adoption of a long-term strategy of a society for all by the year 2010 was positively received.

52. Concern was expressed by some representatives about the lack of resources for the programme from the regular budget and the fact that approximately 50 per cent of staff resources were financed by extrabudgetary funds. They stated that the resources of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs appeared to be far too restricted to implement a more action-oriented programme.

53. It was stated by some representatives that it was vital for the United Nations to assist Member States in strengthening national coordinating committees in the field of disability. In that regard, reference was made to the relevance of the 1990 guidelines for the establishment and development of national coordinating committees on disability (see para. 48 above).

54. The proposal to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group to elaborate standard rules for the equalization of opportunities of disabled persons was welcomed. Several representatives indicated their willingness to support the working group financially. They expressed the hope that the new international instrument would serve as a framework for the development of national disability programmes in all societies irrespective of obvious differences regarding social and cultural conditions and levels of economic development. They also emphasized their view that an effective implementation mechanism was a sine qua non for the new international instrument. It was stated that the working group should be exclusively financed by voluntary contributions from Member States and should complete its work in a maximum of three meetings, the results to be submitted to the Commission at its thirty-third session.

55. Several representatives mentioned, among priority subjects to be given increased attention, the situation of persons disabled as a consequence of armed conflict or civil strife, and the situation of mentally disabled persons. They could be considered by the United Nations as specially vulnerable social groups.

56. Within the framework of the improvement of the work of the Commission, one representative proposed that expert meetings be held on particular subjects between the biennial sessions of the Commission. She proposed that an expert meeting on disability should be held in 1992, in conjunction with the end of the Decade.

E. International Year of the Family (1994)

57. In introducing the topic, the Director of the Social Development Division, also in his capacity as Coordinator for the International Year of the Family proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989, noted that although the primary responsibility for preparing for the Year rested with Governments, the United Nations would have to offer an international component of well-conceived coordination. In that effort, it would act in close harmony with Governments, bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. He stressed that the documentation submitted to the Commission contained a basic international approach on the family in the context of the Year. He informed the Commission of the preparatory steps already taken, which included the setting up of a secretariat for the Year, establishing a voluntary fund, selecting an emblem, as well as initiating a network of family research institutes and a database on the family. He expressed the hope that prompt and generous contributions to the voluntary fund would be forthcoming.

58. It was stated that the concept of the family was not easy to define and that different forms of "real families" existed. Many representatives described the family as the nucleus and pillar of society and a natural bridge between the individual and society. Some stressed that its value was

irreplaceable. Its functions of raising children and young people, caring for the elderly and the disabled, transmitting values and providing social stability were stressed. The family provided a framework for an integrated and comprehensive approach in social policy. As a focus of various sectoral issues, the family could serve as a counterforce to fragmentation in social areas. Strengthening the family involved strengthening all its members. One representative said that the welfare of society was centred on the proper functioning of the family and that its weakening led to social ills.

59. The Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women said that it was important to ensure the primary role of the family in society. The family had changed, its cohesion had weakened and, in many cases, it had fragmented due to migration. The concept of the family could not be abstract, general or impersonal. She stated that women who were heads of household were vulnerable and were faced by double discrimination. The problems of vulnerable women should be considered in the context in which they lived, in the familiy circle. She suggested that a comprehensive and multisectoral approach based on human values should guide the activities of the Year. The responsibilities of the State should not overshadow the responsibilities of the individual. She suggested that the Commission on the Status of Women should be involved in and contribute to the preparation for the Year.

60. Several representatives welcomed the proclamation by the General Assembly of the Year as a means of improving awareness of the family as the basic unit of society and promoting its proper functioning. It was stated that its proclamation reflected the recognition by the international community of the importance of the family unit to social progress and development, which deserved special attention. It was pointed out that priorities should be identified at the local and national levels and that each country should elaborate its own programme for the Year.

61. The importance of providing for differences in family structures, cultural traditions and the concept of the family in varous societies and of avoiding stereotypes was stressed. Issues that called for special attention included the changing role of men and women in the family; the problems of poor, single-parent, female-headed and migrant families; families with many children; education; insufficient income and unemployment; reconciling family and professional responsibilities; and child care. It was stated that the well-being and growth of both children and adults should be the basis for the Year. Other important elements in the observance of the Year should be the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 25/ and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex) as well as the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of

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25/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the Declaration in the 1990s (A/45/625, annex), adopted by the World Summit for Children. One representative suggested that attention should be paid to the relationship between youth drug addiction and the weakening of the family's ability to educate children and youth and contribute to the formation of their character. Another representative stated that, as the relation of the child to the world was developed in the family, the Year should emphasize internationality as well as tolerance and equality.

62. Several representatives stressed the need to establish national coordinating committees or other similar mechanisms to prepare for and observe the Year, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/133. Some indicated that such committees were already being established or that preparations were under way. It was hoped that the Year would increase the significance of family policy at the national level. Many representatives considered crucial the involvement of non-governmental organizations, as well as grass-roots and service groups, in activities at the national level. It was also considered important to concentrate on activities at the grass-roots level.

63. The need for international cooperation in strengthening the family was stressed. Many representatives indicated their intention to actively participate in international activities for the Year. One representative mentioned his Government's financial contribution for a United Nations survey on national policies for families, as well as its intention to contribute to the establishment of a database on the family. He also said that consideration was being given to the provision of a staff member to assist the secretariat of the Year in its liaison with non-governmental organizations. Another pointed out that his country had acted as host to a United Nations seminar on family statistics; yet another stated that his Government had offered to act as host to an international meeting on selected aspects of the Year.

64. Some representatives suggested that the role of the United Nations should be mainly to focus on promotional activities, exchange of information, international coordination and facilitation of the participation of non-governmental organizations. International agencies should provide support for action at the national level. One representative pointed out the need for international agencies whose policies had a direct bearing on the family to become involved in activites relating to the Year. The role of non-governmental organizations at the international level was stressed by many representatives.

65. One representative stated that her Government supported the adoption, at the conclusion of the Year, of an international declaration on the family, sufficiently general to achieve consensus. A special session of the Commission to consider preparations for the Year was suggested by another representative.

66. The representative of ECA said that it would organize an expert group meeting on the African family and would carry out promotional activities for the Year. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) stated that it supported the Year and hoped that the Year would focus attention on family members and their problems.

67. A representative of the non-governmental organization referred to a statement jointly submitted by several such organizations that stressed their role in achieving the objectives of the Year and their need for a mechanism to ensure effective coordination, and called on Governments to provide financial support for that purpose. Another representative of a non-governmental organization stressed the importance of reinforcing the role of the father.

Action taken by the Commission

1. Establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons

68. At the 10th meeting, on 19 February, the Vice-Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Richard Wotava (Austria), introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.4), entitled "Establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons", submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

69. In introducing the draft resolution, he pointed out that the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1990/26, had authorized the Commission to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group of government experts to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled children, youth and adults, in close collaboration with the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, especially organizations of disabled persons. He said that "government experts" should be interpreted as anybody appointed by a Government, even if the person selected was not an employee of the Government. He emphasized that it was of the utmost importance that the working group was attended by persons with expert knowledge in the field of disability. He informed the Commission that in order to facilitate participation from all regions, particularly from developing countries, the budget of the working group foresaw that travel and per diem would be covered for nine participants from developing countries (three from Africa, three from Asia and three from Latin America and the Caribbean) and two from Eastern European countries. He also said that, in recognition of its very useful initiative and generous voluntary contributions, Sweden should be asked to take the chair of the working group.

70. At the same meeting, the representative of Spain made a statement.

71. At the 11th meeting, on 20 February, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 32/2).

72. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of Austria and Sweden made statements.

2. Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action in the field of social development

73. At the 10th meeting, on 19 February, the representative of Germany, on behalf of Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, 26/ the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, 26/ Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, 26/ Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, 26/ Denmark, 26/ Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Kuwait, 26/ Malta, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, 26/ Romania, Sweden, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.7/Rev.1), entitled "Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action". Subsequently, Pakistan and Spain joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

74. At the 11th meeting, on 20 February, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Head of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs made a statement in connection with operative paragraph 11 (c) of the draft resolution.

75. At the same meeting, the representative of Germany revised operative paragraph 11 (c), which read:

> "To ensure that the Social Development Division of the United Nations Office at Vienna, responsible for the monitoring of the implementation of the Guiding Principles, is provided with sufficient resources, without incurring additional expenses, for an effective follow-up to the Interregional Consultation, inter alia, redeploying staff within the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs at the United Nations Office at Vienna",

to read:

> "To ensure that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna, responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Guiding Principles, is provided with sufficient resources for an effective follow-up to the Interregional Consultation".

76. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America proposed that the words "without incurring additional expenses" be retained.

26/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

77. Also at the same meeting, following informal consultations, it was agreed that paragraph 11 (c) should be revised as follows:

> "To ensure that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna, which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Guiding Principles, is provided with sufficient resources, without incurring additional expenses, through the regular budget of the United Nations, for an effective follow-up to the Interregional Consultation".

78. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, the United States of America, Austria, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Ghana.

79. The Commission then adopted the draft resolution, as revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

3. Preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family

80. At the 10th meeting, on 19 February, the representative of Poland, on behalf of Austria, Cameroon, Canada, 26/ China, Czechoslovakia, 26/ the Dominican Republic, Germany, Haiti, Malta, the Netherlands, 26/ the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, 26/ Romania, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.8/Rev.1), entitled "Preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family". Subsequently, Guinea joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

81. At the same meeting, the representative of Uganda read out revisions to the revised draft resolution that had been agreed upon during informal consultations.

82. At the 11th meeting, on 20 February, the Commission had before it a revised draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.8/Rev.2).

83. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Commission made a statement.

84. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted revised draft resolution E/CN.5/1991/L.8/Rev.2 (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III).

4. Establishing and strengthening national coordinating committees on disability, or similar bodies

85. At the 10th meeting, on 19 February, the representative of China, on behalf of Austria, Cameroon, China, the Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Lebanon, 26/ the Netherlands, 26/ Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland,

Sweden and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.9), entitled "Establishing and strengthening national coordinating committees on disability, or similar bodies". Subsequently, Canada, 26/ Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, 26/ the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, 26/ Kuwait, 26/ Pakistan, Romania, Spain, the Sudan, Thailand, 26/ the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Emirates 26/ and Yemen 26/ joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

86. At the same meeting, the representative of Romania made a statement.

87. At the 11th meeting, on 20 February, the Secretary of the Commission read out revisions to the draft resolution that had been agreed upon during informal consultations.

88. Also at the 11th meeting, the representative of the United States of America proposed an amendment to the revised draft resolution, by which the words "within existing resources and through voluntary contributions" would be added at the end of operative paragraph 1.

89. At the same meeting, the representative of China, on behalf of the sponsors accepted the amendment proposed by the United States.

90. The Commission then adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IV).

5. United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

91. At the 10th meeting, on 19 February, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Finland, Malta, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Romania and Sweden, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.12), entitled "United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons", which read as follows:

> The Economic and Social Council,
>
> Recalling its resolution 1989/52 of 24 May 1989 calling upon Member States, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to further the practical implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982 during the second half of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (General Assembly resolution 37/53 of 3 December 1983), based on the list of priorities and programmes set forth in the annex to General Assembly resolution 43/98 of 8 December 1988,
>
> Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/91 of 14 December 1990 requesting the Secretary-General to shift the focus of the United Nations programme on disability from awareness-raising to action, with the aim of achieving a society for all by the year 2010 and of responding more appropriately to the many requests for assistance and advisory services,

Concerned with the very difficult situation of disabled persons living in developing countries and the vulnerability of disability-related programmes and projects, particularly during periods of economic restructuring,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the major issues and programme activities of the Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups (E/CN.5/1991/3),

1. Welcomes the initiative of the Commission for Social Development in elaborating standard technical rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons;

2. Calls upon Member States, regional commissions, intergovernmental bodies and other relevant organizations in cooperation with organizations of disabled persons to adopt an integrated policy approach to disability issues as part of the overall efforts to strive for a sustainable social development strategy;

3. Requests the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to support pilot projects aimed at designing integrated disability policies in developing countries;

4. Invites Member States to review their policies and programmes with the aim of designing national annual priorities until the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons in 1992 and concrete long-term strategies to ensure the full implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons beyond the Decade;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to convene working groups funded by voluntary contributions to study and compare the implementation of national priorities;

6. Requests Member States to give concrete support to the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop activities benefiting disabled persons on a sustainable basis in countries with special need for international support, particularly in developing countries;

7. Invites Member States to provide financial and technical support to the efforts of the Secretary-General to establish an international information network at the United Nations Office at Vienna;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session an item entitled "Long-term strategy to further the implementation of the World Programme of Action beyond the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

92. Also at the 10th meeting, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of the sponsors, revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) After the second preambular paragraph, a new preambular paragraph was inserted, reading:

"Noting with appreciation the recommendations of the meeting of experts held at Järvenpää, Finland, from 7 to 11 May 1990, under the joint auspices of the Government of Finland and the United Nations";

(b) After operative paragraph 6, a new operative paragraph was inserted, reading:

"Recommends that a meeting of experts, to be funded by voluntary contributions, be held in conjunction with the conference entitled 'Independence 1992', to be organized in Canada by the British Columbia Pavillion Corporation, in cooperation with Disabled Peoples' International and other interested non-governmental organizations, with the primary objective of drawing up a long-term strategy to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the year 2000 and beyond".

93. At the same meeting, Denmark, 26/ Guinea and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

94. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines and the observer for Canada made statements.

95. At the 11th meeting, on 20 February, the Commission had before it a revised draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.12/Rev.2) sponsored by Canada, 26/ China, Denmark, 26/ the Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, 26/ the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon, 26/ Malta, the Netherlands, 26/ Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Thailand 26/ and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

96. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Commission read out revisions to the revised draft resolution that had been agreed upon during informal consultations.

97. Also at the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Sweden, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution, as further revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution V).

6. Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and related activities

98. At the 10th meeting, on 19 February, the representative of the Dominican Republic, on behalf of Cameroon, China, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Malta, the Netherlands, 26/ the Philippines, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.14) entitled "Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and related activities". Subsequently, Austria,

Canada, 26/ France, Nigeria, Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

99. At the 11th meeting, on 20 February, the Commission had before it a revised draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.14/Rev.1).

100. Also at the 11th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Dominican Republic, the United States of America, Germany, Austria, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Sweden, Spain, Ghana, Haiti and Argentina. The Chairman also made a statement.

101. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of the Dominican Republic, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VI).

102. After the adoption of the revised draft resolution, several representatives noted with concern and much regret the tendency to insert the phrase "within existing resources" into draft resolutions and decisions of the Commission for Social Development as well as to regularly make social programmes dependent on voluntary contributions or extrabudgetary funds, a development which was beneath the dignity of the United Nations. They believed that such a tendency constrained the growth and development of the social programmes and strategies of the United Nations in general and the work and functioning of the Commission in particular. They stressed the need to seek solutions within the regular budgetary resources in order to strengthen social development programmes of the United Nations.

Chapter IV

PRIORITY SUBJECTS

A. The problem of the integration of young people into society

103. The Commission considered item 5 (a) of its agenda at the 7th, 8th and 10th to 12th meetings, on 14, 19 and 20 February 1991. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Symposium on the Integration of Young People into Society, held at Toledo, Spain, from 4 to 8 June 1990 (E/CN.5/1991/4 and Corr.1).

104. In introducing the report, the representative of Spain, whose Government had acted as host to the Symposium, referred to its conclusions and recommendations, highlighting those concerned with (a) the definition of the concept of integration of young people into society, (b) analysis of issues and problems, with particular focus on education, training and the promotion of income-generating activities and (c) identification of priority needs, concrete measures and recommendations for action.

105. Many representatives supported the conclusions and recommendations of the Symposium and expressed their appreciation to the Government of Spain for acting as host. A number of representatives spoke about the problems confronting youth in their countries and the strategies that should be followed to ensure their participation in society in a productive and creative manner. Some representatives noted that, while the process of integrating young people into society depended on national circumstances and experiences, there was a need to support both the development of society and the self-development of youth, and to encourage the active participation of young people in national development and international cooperation. Several representatives indicated that young people should be viewed as active partners rather than passive beneficiaries.

106. Some representatives emphasized the need for a dynamic interrelationship between youth and adult society. They noted that youth policies and programmes were often formulated by adults without sufficient participation of youth in formulating, implementing and evaluating such policies and programmes, and that, too often, a youth policy constituted an adult policy for young people.

107. Many representatives cited key elements in the integration of youth into society, such as education and vocational training, employment, health services, promotion and support of youth meetings, cultural exchanges, access to information and allocation of the funds necessary for such programmes.

108. Several representatives cited the importance of family solidarity and intergenerational understanding in order to effectively promote the integration of youth in society. One representative stressed the need to include, in a national youth policy, issues related to the family, such as family education and youth services. Other representatives suggested the need

for the United Nations to formulate concrete models for a youth policy, as that would help the youth of the world and improve the standing of the United Nations in the eyes of young people.

109. Some representatives noted that the demographic factor often negatively affected the integration of youth in society, particularly in developing countries. Under conditions of limited economic growth, a rapid increase in population led to insufficient educational opportunities, insecurity of food supplies and housing shortages. Such problems constrained the integration of youth into society.

110. Several representatives stressed that education must prepare youth for an active role and be responsive to the changing aspirations of youth brought about through technological and scientific progress. One representative said that education often did not correspond to the challenges facing young people in society and that it was often difficult for educational institutions tc focus on what skills young people should acquire to be integrated into society.

111. A number of representatives expressed concern that adverse economic conditions, particularly in developing countries, continued to severely hamper social development in their countries. Several representatives said that large cohorts of young people were entering the labour market every year and there was an increasing need for urgent measures to improve employment opportunities to prevent frustration among young people. Some representatives said that there was also a need to better gear educational programmes to the requirements of the labour market, and that other factors, such as the spread of drug abuse and sexually transmitted diseases among young people, should also be taken into account.

112. Some representatives said that effective measures were needed to meet the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized young people, such as rural youth, young women, unemployed youth, disabled youth, youth caught in areas of conflict and migrant youth. One representative noted that a dynamic policy for young people and a global and concerted approach was required to deal with the problem of the marginalization of youth. In that context, some representatives stressed the importance of tackling problems confronting youth in urban areas and in the urbanization process.

113. A number of representatives spoke of the lack of political will on the part of decision makers to open such processes to youth, resulting in the alienation and marginalization of youth. Some representatives said that the participation of young people in the political decision-making process was important for the development of a democratic society.

114. Several representatives especially stressed the importance of legislation concerning youth with a view to encouraging the participation of youth in all aspects of national life. One representative stressed the importance of establishing committees on youth in parliaments at both national and provincial levels to promote and protect the rights of youth and youth organizations to participate in political processes and for their effective

integration in society. Some representatives stressed the importance of improved opportunities for youth to participate in the formulation of national youth policies and programmes.

115. Many representatives stressed the importance of national coordinating committees or other similar mechanisms on youth to promote the integration of youth in society, and of government support for non-governmental youth organizations since they were essential structures for the effective integration of young people in society. One representative stressed the importance of such organizations since they provided the means and the framework for direct youth involvement. Some representatives noted the problems confronting newly formed youth organizations that had not been able to function effectively.

116. Several representatives welcomed the initiative taken by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/103, in requesting the Secretary-General to prepare a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond. They noted that the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth were a useful basis for the review of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the field of youth, as well as for the drafting of the world youth programme of action. One representative said that the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace in 1995 should be a time to carry out an in-depth appraisal of the implementation, since 1985, of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up.

117. Many representatives stressed the importance of contributions by Member States, non-governmental youth organizations, and bodies and organizations of the United Nations system in the drafting of a world youth programme of action. Some representatives supported the proposal to establish a working group on youth at the Commission's thirty-third session, in 1993, to review and appraise the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, to prepare a draft programme of action to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year to be implemented at the international level and to prepare a draft world youth programme of action.

118. One representative stated that a seminar on young people and urbanization would be held in 1991, with the support of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. He hoped that other representatives would be interested in that activity.

119. One representative suggested that each Government should recommend a representative non-governmental youth coordination agency or organization to carry out liaison functions with the relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, that the United Nations youth programme should focus on providing assistance to strengthen youth policies and programmes in developing countries and that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs should set up a global youth information network to promote effective information exchange on youth between Governments, non-governmental organizations, research institutions and youth organizations.

120. One representative suggested that a regular series of meetings be held between representatives of non-governmental youth organizations and bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to improve channels of communication and cooperation. The representative of a non-governmental organization, referring to a meeting being held pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/59 to discuss effective channels of communication and cooperation between the bodies and agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental youth organizations, stressed the need to establish a working group of non-governmental youth organizations and bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to discuss contributions to the drafting of a world youth programme of action.

B. Social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development cooperation

121. The Commission considered item 5 (b) of its agenda at the 7th, 8th and 10th to 12th meetings, on 14, 19 and 20 February 1991. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Meeting of the Expert Group on Social Impact of the Critical Economic Environment on Developing Countries: Strategies for Social Development Cooperation, held at Järvenpää, Finland from 17 to 21 September 1990 (E/CN.5/1991/5).

122. In introducing the report, the representative of Finland, whose Government had acted as host to the Expert Group, pointed to the main issues that had been discussed. She stated that the global economy had affected developing countries, many of which had been weakened and more had been exposed to external and internal shocks and that many of those economies had stagnated or regressed, resulting in a decline of living standards and an increase in the number of disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

123. The Expert Group had agreed that economic growth did not guarantee social progress and therefore distinct measures were needed to ensure the protection of social and individual rights. Social policy should not be seen as merely compensating for the negative side-effects of the process of economic change. Successful development required that social and economic policies should reinforce each other and work in the same direction. Furthermore, it was necessary that the social dimension be incorporated into all stages of development activity. It was felt that that approach should be reflected in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex).

124. It was stressed that there was a need for new concepts and ways of implementing social policy as part of a global approach to development in which social justice was an essential element. In addition, it was pointed out that three criteria were important for the design of social development projects: they needed to reflect the social and cultural background of the society; they must attack the root causes of problems; and they should result in sustainable improvements. Furthermore the Expert Group had identified

research and data collection, the development of instruments for self-help, the encouragement of activities to advocate on behalf of vulnerable groups and training as themes of immediate concern in the area of social development.

125. Many representatives expressed their gratitude to the Government of Finland for acting as host to the Expert Group. Furthermore they expressed their appreciation of the results of the Expert Group's work and stressed the importance of the report. Several representatives stated that the report provided a good analysis of the policy issues faced by developing countries, international agencies and donor countries when transforming the social dimension of development into practice.

126. A number of representatives stressed the urgent need for the United Nations to work towards solving the social development problems of the developing countries. The international community had to reach a common understanding, unify its position and take joint action. In that context it was pointed out that there was a need to establish guidelines, criteria and principles that were essential for the design of strategies for social development cooperation.

127. Many representatives were encouraged that international organizations were giving increasing recognition to social development issues, in particular UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). In addition they noted with satisfaction that developing countries were increasingly considered partners in development.

128. Most representatives stressed the importance of the incorporation of social aspects into the various stages of development planning and implementation if development cooperation was to be successful. It was pointed out that in order to be effective, international cooperation projects should be closely tied to the social development plans, objectives and priorities, as well as to the policies and measures, of the recipient countries.

129. Many representatives reported on national experience with structural adjustment programmes and noted the adverse impact such programmes had on the social conditions in their countries, especially affecting women and rural populations. It was emphasized that the economic crisis had been occasioned by rapid social change and rapid economic change, which had taken place against the backdrop of rapid population growth. Some population groups in Africa were in such a desperate socio-economic situation that United Nations campaigns, such as education and health for all by the year 2000, would appear highly unrealistic.

130. Some representatives from donor countries reported on the progress made in their countries in regard to new criteria for social development cooperation. The new policies were based on the current broad agreement that the free market and private, indigenous enterprise should play a greater role in stimulating growth in developing countries and that development policies should put human concerns first. Therefore their development policies would encourage the development of an indigenous private sector, promote local

grass-root and self-help efforts and focus on urban poverty. In addition it was stressed that research was necessary to develop a better understanding of the social and cultural aspects of development activities. One representative mentioned a constant and visible theme in his country's aid policy during past decades, namely the fight against poverty.

131. Some representatives noted that participatory approaches should be adopted in all aspects of multilateral and bilateral cooperation and that new methodologies and more flexible procedures were needed to achieve that goal. It was stressed that budgetary constraints made it impossible for developing countries to establish welfare systems on the lines of those in developed countries, and therefore needed to develop systems based on indigenous resources. It was suggested by one representative that developing countries must identify the most vulnerable groups to help alleviate their suffering and enhance their earning capacity. One representative suggested that experienced social scientists must be involved in the planning phase to ensure that policies benefited vulnerable groups.

132. Several representatives raised the question of effective participation of beneficiaries in the design and implementation of development activities. It was suggested that participation be considered as a way of ensuring that projects catered to the population's actual rather than supposed needs. The participatory approach was considered to provide a better strategy to achieve sustainable social development.

133. In that context the point was made that indigenous populations and ethnic organizations carried a wealth of important and rich knowledge that should be taken into account in the design of policy instruments. It was stated that traditional institutions could be utilized to provide an infrastructure for community participation. Many representatives stressed that the role of non-governmental organizations in development cooperation should be strengthened.

134. Some of the main targets for social development cooperation mentioned by representatives were assistance to the poor, population control, primary and secondary vocational and technical education, the improvement of medical conditions in rural areas and activities to improve the situation of women and of special groups such as the disabled, elderly, children and young people.

135. Many representatives pointed out that women were disproportionally represented among the poor and had to bear the heaviest burden of the economic crisis and structural adjustment in developing countries. Therefore it was requested that particular attention should be paid to advancing their interests and to incorporating a gender perspective in development projects, which required not only a new approach to development work but also sensitization of field and technical staff to gender issues. In that context it was suggested that the report of the Expert Group be made available to the Commission on the Status of Women for information.

136. Several representatives raised the question of initial and supplementary training of planners and technicians to encourage them to adopt a more socially sensitive approach.

137. A number of representatives expressed the hope that the discussion of those issues would continue and suggested that the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session consider the progress achieved in the area of social development cooperation. It was also suggested that the Commission target vulnerable groups and initiate primary programmes following the example of UNICEF and IFAD.

138. Many representatives called for the wide dissemination of the report of the Expert Group and for Governments, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations to take its principles, suggestions and recommendations into consideration in their activities.

Action taken by the Commission

1. Integration of young people into society: participation, development, peace

139. At the 10th meeting, on 19 February, the representative of Spain, on behalf of Bolivia, 27/ Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, 27/ Czechoslovakia, 27/ the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Haiti, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, 27/ Malta, the Netherlands, 27/ Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, 27/ Spain and Sweden, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.13) entitled "Integration of young people into society: participation, development, peace". Subsequently, France and Guinea joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

140. At the 11th meeting, on 20 February, statements were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and China.

141. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VII).

2. Strategies for social development cooperation

142. At the 10th meeting, on 19 February, the Vice-Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Tadeusz Tyszka (Poland), introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.11) entitled "Strategies for social development cooperation", submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

27/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

143. At the same meeting, the representative of Ghana proposed that operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution be amended by inserting the words "sustained and" before the words "sustainable development".

144. At the 11th meeting, on 20 February, the Secretary of the Commission read out revisions to the draft resolution that had been agreed upon during informal consultations.

145. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VIII).

3. In-depth consideration of major social policy themes by the Economic and Social Council

146. At the 10th meeting, on 19 February, the representative of Chile, on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia, 27/ Chile, Colombia, 27/ the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Haiti, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.15) entitled "In-depth consideration of major social policy themes by the Economic and Social Council", which read as follows:

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/175 of 18 December 1990, entitled "Rationalization of the work of the Third Committee",

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/77 of 29 July 1988 and 1989/114 of 28 July 1989 and decision 1990/205 of 9 February 1990,

Emphasizing the need to maintain a balance between social and economic issues,

1. Invites member States to be represented in the discussion of major social policy issues at the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council for 1991, at an appr priately high level, without excluding the ministerial level, with a view to the effective consideration of those issues;

2. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council should establish the practice of giving in-depth consideration to the major social policy themes agreed upon by the Council, to be discussed for two days at the appropriate high level, without excluding the ministerial level during its first regular sessions, beginning with the priority theme for 1992 "Eradication of poverty in the developing countries, including the impact of structural adjustment programmes on vulnerable groups";

3. Recommends also that the Economic and Social Council should decide to convene a special session of the Commission for Social Development for one week in 1992, prior to the first regular session of

the Economic and Social Council, in order to provide the Council with all the necessary input and support, particularly materials required for the thematic analysis of the above-mentioned major policy theme, as well as policy recommendations and decisions resulting from its deliberations for consideration and appropriate action by the Council;

4. Recommends further that the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to its decision 1990/205, should select a major social policy theme for in-depth consideration at its first regular session in 1993, taking into account in particular the priority issues adopted by the Commission for Social Development for consideration at its thirty-third regular session.

147. Also at the 10th meeting, the representative of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance made a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

148. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the United States of America.

149. At the 12th meeting, on 20 February, the representative of Chile, on behalf of the sponsors, now joined by Nigeria, introduced a revised draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.15/Rev.1).

150. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Germany, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 32/3).

151. After the adoption of the revised draft resolution, the representative of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs made a statement.

4. Social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development cooperation

152. At the 12th meeting, on 20 February, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to transmit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session, for information, the note by the Secretary-General on the social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development cooperation (E/CN.5/1991/5) (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 32/102).

Chapter V

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS AND OTHER MATTERS

153. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 9th, 11th and 12th meetings, on 18 and 20 February 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989 (A/45/218 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1);

(b) Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/1991/6);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/1991/7);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993 and the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (E/CN.5/1991/CRP.1 and Add.1).

154. The Principal Officer in Charge of Planning and Intersectoral Projects of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs introduced the topics for discussion under agenda items 6 (a) and 6 (b). He said that the proposed programme of work was in line with the new framework of the medium-term plan for 1992-1997 and comprised activities regarding global social issues and policies and the integration of social groups in society. The Commission had considered the relevant parts of the draft medium-term plan at its thirty-first session. Those had then been revised, taking into account, inter alia, the comments of the Commission and had been submitted in 1990 through the Committee for Programme and Coordination to the General Assembly, which had adopted the plan at its forty-fifth session.

155. The Chief of the Development Analysis Branch of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs introduced the part of the proposed programme of work of the Department that was of direct interest to the Commission.

156. Several representatives expressed regret that a primary document for the discussion, namely the note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993 and the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (E/CN.5/1991/CRP.1 and Add.1), had been made available only during the course of the session. One representative stated that that had made consideration of proposals and consultation with national Governments difficult, as representatives had had to hastily review the programme and had not had time to consider proposals. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna replied that the lateness of the documentation could be partly attributed to scarce staff resources. She pointed out that the

timing for the production of the document in question had been short, but necessarily so, as the proposed programme of work for the biennium was dependent on the budgetary process. In preceding sessions of the Commission the draft programme had been presented as a conference room paper during the session and not prior to it.

157. Several representatives referred to the preparations for the 1993 report on the world social situation as outlined in the draft framework presented in the annex to the interim report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation (A/46/56-E/1991/6 and Corr.1). One representative indicated that his Government had increasing doubts about the format and presentation of the report. He questioned whether it was a good idea to write the report in New York and whether it was sufficient to base it on a statistical presentation of issues. He suggested that consideration be given to the proposal for the regional commissions to produce the sections of the report concerning the social situation in their regions, with an introduction provided by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Several other representatives supported the proposal to "regionalize" the report. One representative stated that the report should not just provide a review of statistics and trends, but should also concentrate on providing practical suggestions to Governments.

158. The representative of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs stated that the report had previously been prepared with a regional emphasis but that since 1972 it had been considered preferable to produce the report from a global perspective. The framework for the report had been developed in consultation with the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and taking into account the request of the Third Committee of the General Assembly to include more statistics and social indicators. Thanks also to the work of such bodies as the Statistical Office of the Secretariat and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) in developing and expanding social indicators, it was considered important to provide as much statistical information as possible in the 1993 report.

159. Several representatives expressed appreciation for the activities of the United Nations Office at Vienna, especially in the light of scarce resources. Several restated their support of the Office as the focal point for social development and expressed dismay that staff resources were scarce. One representative said that resources for several units, which were currently provided temporarily by certain Governments, should be incorporated into the regular budget.

160. One representative expressed concern about the current working arrangements of the Planning and Intersectoral Projects Unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. Although there was a need for overall coordination in the Centre, and with other organizations of the United Nations system, he noted with regret that some much-needed staff had been redeployed from the Social Development Division to the new Projects Unit, endangering the project implementation of the Division. It was suggested that a more balanced deployment of staff, within available limits, should be looked for and that the Projects Unit, besides having an overall planning mandate,

should be given the function of the evaluation and inspection of the Centre's programmes. At the same time, the Projects Unit should be put back under the authority of the Director of the Social Development Division. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna responded by stating that present arrangements within the Centre reflected imperfect conditions but sought to provide maximum coverage of the myriad topics and broad mandates in an integrated manner. She also provided reassurances that follow-up to the Interregional Consultation was a priority for all the units of the Centre.

161. Many representatives said that the work of the United Nations in the field of social development should be more concentrated and action-oriented, providing practical and specific advice to Governments, and assistance with the elaboration and implementation of programmes to deal with their social development priorities. One representative stressed the need to provide specific training for social workers.

162. Another representative said that the valuable work of the United Nations in the field of social development could be witnessed in the activities of the Commission for Social Development at its current session, which appeared likely to endorse United Nations principles for older persons as well as the proposal to set up a working group to establish minimum standards for disabled persons. He also said that the Commission should provide Governments with moral guidelines upon which to base their policies and direct their activities.

163. One representative raised a question on the implementation of the programme for the previous biennium. It seemed that many items on the previous programme had not been completed. He wondered whether that situation reflected a lack of resources, and stated his Government's readiness to discuss the draft programme in more detail with the Secretariat.

164. Many representatives emphasized the need for stronger coordination of activities between different offices of the United Nations system, and with non-governmental organizations undertaking programmes of social development. In particular, closer collaboration between the Centre, UNRISD and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research was called for. One representative stated that such an approach would be useful to enhance the rationalization of scarce funds and to avoid duplication of efforts.

165. In the same vein, one representative, supported by several others, stated that more coordination would be desired between the activities of the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, as well as with other commissions having an interest in social development activities, and with Member States. In that connection, he stated that consideration should be given to coordinating the priority subjects of the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council.

166. Within the United Nations system, in the view of several representatives, more consideration should be given by the regional commissions to questions of social policy and social development. One representative expressed regret that all the regional commissions were not represented at the current session

of the Commission; another pointed out that some of the regional commissions did not even have the word "social" included in their names. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna informed the Commission that the executive secretaries of the regional commissions would be meeting in Vienna in March to discuss matters of common interest and that social concerns would be given priority at that meeting. She assured the Commission that its deliberations and recommendations would be brought to the attention of the executive secretaries at that time.

167. One representative expressed his concern that the proposed programme of work for the biennium appeared to be more of a collection of individual activities than a comprehensive approach to questions of social development. He suggested that certain themes might be used to integrate the activities and lead to their improved coordination. One such theme might be the family and another might be the environment and development. He clarified his intervention by saying that he did not intend that all issues should be given a specific family focus, but rather that certain themes such as those mentioned could be used to link various existing activities.

168. Several representatives took the opportunity to suggest priority topics for future sessions of the Commission. Among the topics mentioned were consideration of population movements and their social consequences, with special emphasis on the situation of migrants and refugees; the integration of disabled persons in society; problems of the family; and the effects of natural calamities on the socio-economic situation of countries.

169. The Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development presented the report of the Board of the Institute (E/CN.5/1991/6) in introducing agenda item 6 (c).

170. He said that the work of the Institute was carried out through a worldwide network of scholars and research institutes. It was comparative and multidisciplinary in scope. Close cooperation was maintained with all the interested United Nations organizations and international and regional research institutes. Systematic efforts had been made to disseminate findings to policy makers, researchers, students, non-governmental organizations and the international development community through books, reports, discussion papers and the newsletter, UNRISD News. Research findings were provided for various reports of the Secretary-General and of bodies and organizations of the United Nations.

171. The Director said that the period covered by the report had been marked by major progress in the implementation of the Institute's research programme. Its programme was designed to focus on major contemporary problems of social development.

172. The work on food pricing and marketing reform had been completed and a number of publications were in the pipeline. Similarly, the work on the project entitled "Patterns of consumption: qualitative aspects of development", requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/234,

would be completed with the organization of an international expert seminar on development indicators at Rabat. Substantial progress had been made in the studies on refugees and a regional seminar was planned to be held in Zimbabwe to consider the situation of refugees who returned to their country of origin.

173. Fifteen studies were under way in the project on ethnic conflict and development. Four in-depth country studies were being carried out by multidisciplinary teams under the project entitled "crisis, adjustment and social change". Eight studies had been initiated on political violence and social movements. A book containing an annotated bibliography and analysis of the socio-economic and political impact of the production, trade and consumption of narcotic drugs was in production. The preparatory work was under way for the second phase of the drug project to involve 10 country studies. Major emphasis was placed on the question of environment and social change, with several studies under way on the social dynamics of deforestation, women, environment and population as well as popular participation in the management of natural resources. Finally, three country studies were under way and two more were planned in the project on participation and the social impact of changes in property relations in eastern Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

174. It had been possible to achieve those results with resources that were a fraction of those available to comparable international research organizations. The Institute had continued to rely on voluntary contributions from a few countries as well as grants for specific projects from other organizations. The Director appealed for greater contributions from other countries and from the United Nations system.

175. Many representatives expressed appreciation of the Institute's research programme and the impressive results it had achieved with modest funds. They commended its work on environment and social change, ethnic conflict and development, refugees, social indicators, narcotic drugs and the social impact of property changes in eastern Europe. They made suggestions for extending the work to new regions and in such new areas as the social consequences of migration from eastern Europe and a seminar on the impact of economic changes on different social groups. Several representatives stressed the importance of continuing and further intensifying cooperation with other organizations working in related areas.

176. One representative spoke of the lack of substantive information, such as the exact objectives of the research projects and methods planned to accomplish those objectives. Another representative stressed that the Institute should work on the mass movement of refugees and displaced persons, the socio-economic impact of the mass movement of refugees and the burden on developing countries that received returnees and refugees. One representative suggested that the Institute should also carry out a study on natural calamities, such as floods, cyclones and droughts, which affected many countries.

Action taken by the Commission

1. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

177. At the 11th meeting, on 20 February, the representative of Finland, on behalf of Finland, Lebanon, 28/ the Netherlands 28/ and Sweden, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1991/L.16) entitled "United Nations Research Institute for Social Development".

178. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Malta, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IX).

2. Programme questions

179. At the 12th meeting, on 20 February, the Commission had before it a draft decision (E/CN.5/1991/L.17) entitled "programme questions", submitted by the Chairman.

180. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision II).

3. Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

181. At the 12th meeting, on 20 February, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to nominate, for confirmation by the Economic and Social Council, the following candidates for membership in the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development for a four-year term beginning on 1 July 1991: Kinhide MUSHAKOJI (Japan), Guillermo O'DONNELL (Argentina), Rehman SOBHAN (Bangladesh), Fahima CHARAF-EDDINE (Lebanon) and Georgina DUFOIX (France) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 32/101).

182. At the same meeting, the representative of Poland made a statement.

4. Programme questions

183. At the 12th meeting, on 20 February, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (E/CN.5/1991/CRP.1 and Add.1) and the note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/1991/7) (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 32/103).

28/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Chapter VI

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

184. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at the 12th meeting, on 20 February 1991. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-third session together with a list of requested documentation (E/CN.5/1991/L.2).

185. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of China, the Commission decided to entrust the Secretary of the Commission with the task of completing the provisional agenda, in the light of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at its thirty-second session, for submission to the Economic and Social Council in accordance with Council resolution 1979/41 (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision I).

186. After the adoption of the draft decision, the representative of Argentina made a statement.

Chapter VII

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

187. At its 12th meeting, on 20 February 1991, the Commission adopted the report on its thirty-second session (E/CN.5/1991/L.3 and Add.1-5), as revised during the discussion.

Chapter VIII

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

188. The Commission for Social Development held its thirty-second session at the Vienna International Centre from 11 to 20 February 1991. The Commission held 12 meetings (1st to 12th) and a number of informal meetings.

189. The session was opened by Oskar Schröder (Germany), Chairman of the thirty-first session of the Commission. He noted that the past intersessional period was replete with internationally significant events: encouraging events, such as Namibia's independence, the unification of Germany and democratization in Eastern Europe, as well as unfortunate ones, such as the fact that peaceful developments had not taken place in all parts of the world. He said that in such circumstances there could be no social development. He expressed the hope that, in future, armed conflicts could be prevented and that resources could be redirected towards social development. He warned that the imbalance of social development in the world might lead to utter impoverishment and mass migration.

190. The newly elected Chairman, Elsie N. Mbella Ngomba (Cameroon), said that meaningful social progress could only be sustained by a commensurate commitment of the international community characterized by mutual respect for internationally accepted norms and principles, as well as the respect for human life and social and cultural patterns. Recalling the threat to global peace and security and the setback of social progress that had occurred each time there had been a collapse of dialogue, she stated that conflicts originating from differences in cultural and social systems, together with their corresponding political ramifications, must be settled through peaceful means and continuous negotiations.

191. Since the thirty-first session of the Commission, activities at the international level - such as the adoption by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/25 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the adoption by the World Summit for Children at New York on 30 September 1990 of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s - had provided further guidelines for the protection and development of children and their societies. She expressed the hope that the Commission at its thirty-second session would build on those achievements further. Discussion of the two priority issues - the integration of young people into society and the social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development cooperation - would contribute to ensuring the protection of the most vulnerable sectors and social groups of society.

192. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna said that if the session had been held six months earlier in different circumstances, she would have looked forward with considerable confidence to the slackening of East and West tensions and the consequent release of resources, imagination and energy for tackling North-South issues, which continued to constitute a major threat to long-term global stability. Those hopes had receded, however, in the shadow of recent world events, which she trusted had only postponed the better future that the world had briefly glimpsed.

193. She said that in addressing the "social perspective", the Commission at its thirty-second session was dealing with perhaps the most difficult of all issues facing the United Nations and Governments across the vast range of socio-economic concerns. She referred to the view of social development that was emerging, based on the concept of a society for all. There was, moreover, a growing realization of the universalization of social issues; she therefore felt that there was hope of making progress in breaking the log-jam of international cooperation on economic and social matters.

194. The move away from central planning, the move towards the market as an organizing principle of economic management and the profound structural adjustment process in many countries (in developing countries because of the burden of external debt) called for new approaches and new policy initiatives in the social sphere.

195. The United Nations Office at Vienna, the Director-General stated, was currently also in transition. The intention had been to make it the nucleus of social policy and development and drug abuse control within the Secretariat, but responsibility for social affairs remained divided between New York and Vienna. Despite those problems, the United Nations Office at Vienna continued to be concerned with elaborating international instruments, for international approval, which set guidelines and standards for national and international action; promoting the objectives set out therein; and monitoring the progress made. At the same time emphasis was shifting towards providing direct and practical support to Governments. The United Nations Office at Vienna was mobilizing financial and technical support and expanding direct operational activities, including advisory services.

196. The Director-General pointed out that the United Nations Office at Vienna had attempted to overcome the lack of resources obstacle by developing innovative ways to raise funds for activities, which included commercial sponsorship and involved the private sector and private foundations.

197. The Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs highlighted some of the activities undertaken in his Department, in addition to the preparation of the Report on the World Social Situation, which were relevant to the work of the Commission. The proceedings of the International Conference on Ageing Populations in the Context of the Family, convened at Kitakyushu, Japan, in October 1990, were being prepared for publication. The forthcoming special issue of the 1990 Demographic Yearbook would be devoted to the subject of aging, with emphasis on disability and living arrangements for

elderly persons. The Department planned to issue in 1992 an additional report on the situation of elderly women. There would be two studies on the question of disability: first, the Disability Statistics Compendium, 29/ providing detailed data on major demographic and socio-economic topics concerning disability, which had just been completed; and secondly, a demographic approach to the study of disability that would appear in the Population Bulletin of the United Nations.

198. He said that, on the one hand, there were great opportunities for social progress and economic prosperity for all; on the other hand, however, there was the grave danger of mutually assured destruction currently facing the world community. In various declarations, decisions and resolutions, there was convincing evidence of the determination of the international community to meet the massive social, economic and environmental challenges that lay ahead. The work of the Commission in promoting a better understanding of and increased cooperation in the social field could contribute greatly to those efforts.

B. Attendance

199. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1147 (XLI) of 4 August 1966, the Commission is composed of 32 States Members of the United Nations, elected on the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

200. The session was attended by 29 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States and representatives of specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is given in annex I to the present report.

C. Election of officers

201. At its 1st meeting, on 11 February, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Elsie N. Mbella Ngomba (Cameroon)

Vice-Chairmen: Richard Wotava (Austria)
Julia Tavarez de Alvarez (Dominican Republic)
Tadeusz Tyszka (Poland)

Rapporteur: Iftikhar A. Arain (Pakistan)

29/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XVII.17.

D. Agenda

202. At its 1st meeting, on 11 February, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.5/1991/1 (see annex II to the present report).

E. Organization of work

203. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of the work of the session (see E/CN.5/1991/L.1).

204. At its 3rd meeting, on 12 February, the Commission decided to appoint Richard Wotava (Austria) Coordinator of informal consultations on the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons; Julia Tavarez de Alvarez (Dominican Republic) Coordinator of the informal open-ended working group on the question of aging; and Tadeusz Tyszka (Poland) Coordinator of informal consultations on priority subjects selected for the present session.

F. Consultations with non-governmental organizations

205. In accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1), representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council made statements:

Under agenda item 3:

Category II: International Catholic Child Bureau

Under agenda item 4:

Category I: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
International Council of Women

Category II: International Federation of Ageing

Under agenda item 5:

Category II: Bahá'í International Community

206. Written statements submitted by non-governmental organizations are listed in annex III to the present report.

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

Members

Argentina:	Juan Carlos Beltramino, Silvia Elena Mira
Austria:	Richard Wotava, Johann Unger, Birgit Stimmer, Ewald Jaeger, Henriette Naber, Maria Wolf, Erika Winkler, Mechtild Petritsch-Holaday, Alois Kraut
Burundi:*	
Cameroon:	Elsie N. Mbella Ngomba
Chile:	Hernán Gutierrez Leyton, Ramiro Riobo Piñones, Cristián Maquieira Astaburuaga, Francisco J. Berguño Hurtado
China:	Chen Shiqiu, Zhang Xilin, Huang Yongan, Yang Qingwei, Du Qiwen, Liu Jing, Chen Ci, Li Jun
Cyprus:	George Anastasiades
Dominican Republic:	Julia Tavarez de Alvarez
Ecuador:	Jorge Pareja Cucalon, Fernando Flores
Finland:	Vappu Taipale, Antti Isotalus, Esa Markkanen, Marja-Liisa Kauppinen, Merja Lindroos-Binham, Ilkka-Pekka Similä
France:	Claude Fonrojet, Danièle Refuveille, Marc Plum, Jean Galinier
Germany:	Claus Lutz, Hans Hengstenberg von Borstell, Volker Berger, Frank Hempel, Manfred Gerwinat, Silvia Kornwolf, Oskar Schröder, Gisela-Zerelda Kehrhahn, Peter Munsch
Ghana:	Herbert Kofi Mensah, Clifford Nii Amon Kotey
Guatemala:*	
Guinea:	Oumou Hann
Haiti:	Nicole Romulus

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* Not represented at the session.

Iran (Islamic Republic of):	Hossein Nogrehkar Shirazi, F. Mamdouhi
Iraq:*	
Madagascar:	Laurent Radaody-Rakotondravao, Edafe Phabien
Malta:	Peter Serracino-Inglott, Saviour F. Borg, Alfred Grech
Nigeria:	Mahmud M. Bauchi, M. O. Dina, A. L. Sidi
Pakistan:	Iftikhar A. Arain, Farman Ullah
Philippines:	Nelson D. Lavina, Linglingay F. Lacanlale, Thelma R. Castillo
Poland:	Tadeusz Tyszka, Ireneusz Matela, Wlodzimierz Aniol, Grzegorz Jazowski
Romania:	Dan Barliba, Vlad Moga
Spain:	Fernando Arias-Salgado, Magdy Martinez Solimán, Carlos Sáenz de Tejada, Aurelio Fernández López, G. Adams Fernández, J. N. Fernández Muñoz
Sudan:	Ali Yassim Gaili, Abdalla M. A. Wadi
Sweden:	Sture Korpi, Ethel Wiklund, Bertil Mathsson, Roland Johansson
Uganda:	Kangumba-Adyeri, Rosemary Semafumu
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic:	Arnold Nikolaevich Shlepakov, Y. V. Kostenko, M. V. Osnach
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:	A. Arystanbekova, A. Nekrasov, M. Beliakov, I. Manuilora, V. Menshikov, V. Minin, A. Sharonov, B. Belov, N. Beliakov, S. Goumeniouk
United States of America:	Michael H. Newlin, John A. Buche, Sandra S. Parrino, Crayon C. Efird, David Hohman, Richard W. Hoover

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Panama, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Tunisia,

Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire

Non-member States represented by observers

Holy See, Switzerland

United Nations Secretariat

Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Department of Public Information, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (United Nations Office at Vienna), Division of Narcotic Drugs (United Nations Office at Vienna), Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

United Nations bodies

United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Intergovernmental organizations represented by observers

European Economic Community, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, League of Arab States

Other organizations represented by observers

Palestine

Non-governmental organizations

Category I: International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Women, International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Planned Parenthood Federation, International Union of Family Organizations, Zonta International

Category II: Associated Country Women of the World, Bahá'í International Community, Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), Disabled Peoples' International, Foundation for the Rights of the Family (PRODEFA), International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Catholic Child Bureau, International Federation on Ageing, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of Social Workers, International Federation of University Women,

Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs) (International Movement of Catholic Students), World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Federation of Methodist Women, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

Roster: Catholic International Education Office, HelpAge International

Annex II

AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Review of the world social situation.

4. Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action.

5. Priority subjects:

   (a) The problem of the integration of young people into society;

   (b) Social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development cooperation.

6. Programme questions and other matters:

   (a) Programme performance and implementation;

   (b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993;

   (c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Commission.

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-second session.

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AT ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
A/44/407	4	Preparation for and observance of an international family year: report of the Secretary-General
A/45/16 (Parts I and II)	6	Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirtieth session
A/45/218 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1	6	Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989: report of the Secretary-General
A/45/365	4	International year of the family: note by the Secretary-General
A/45/420	4	Question of ageing: report of the Secretary-General
A/45/422	4	Policies and programmes involving young people - Participation, development, peace: report of the Secretary-General
A/45/470	4	Feasibility study on alternative ways to mark the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons: report of the Secretary-General
A/46/56-E/1991/6 and Corr.1	3	Interim report on the world situation: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1991/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda
E/CN.5/1991/2	4	Preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family: report of the Secretary-General

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CN.5/1991/3 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1	4	Major issues and programme activities of the Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1991/4 and Corr.1	5 (a)	The problem of the integration of young people into society: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1991/5	5 (b)	Social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development cooperation: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1991/6	6 (c)	Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
E/CN.5/1991/7	6 (c)	Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1991/8 and Corr.1	3	Critical social situation in Africa: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1991/CPR.1 and Add.1	6 (b)	Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993 and the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1991/INF/1	-	Information for participants
E/CN.5/1991/INF/2	-	List of participants
E/CN.5/1991/L.1	2	Organization of work of the session: note by the Secretariat
E/CN.5/1991/L.2	7	Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Commission: note by the Secretariat

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CN.5/1991/L.3 and Add.1-5	8	Draft report of the Commission
E/CN.5/1991/L.4	4	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Richard Wotava (Austria)
E/CN.5/1991/L.5/Rev.1	3	Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Haiti: revised draft resolution
E/CN.5/1991/L.6	3	Draft resolution submitted by China, Netherlands and Zaire (on behalf of the African States)
E/CN.5/1991/L.7/Rev.1		Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Kuwait, Malta, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: revised draft resolution
E/CN.5/1991/L.8/Rev.1	4	Austria, Cameroon, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Germany, Guinea, Haiti, Malta, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1991/L.8/Rev.2	4	[same sponsors]: revised draft resolution
E/CN.5/1991/L.9	4	Austria, Cameroon, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
		Republics, United Arab Emirates and Yemen: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1991/L.10	4	[withdrawn]
E/CN.5/1991/L.11	5 (b)	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Tadeusz Tyszka (Poland)
E/CN.5/1991/L.12	4	Denmark, Finland, Guinea, Malta, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sweden and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1991/L.12/Rev.2	4	[same sponsors], Canada, China, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Netherlands, Pakistan and Thailand: revised draft resolution
E/CN.5/1991/L.13	5 (a)	Bolivia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea, Haiti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1991/L.14	4	Austria, Cameroon, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Malta, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1991/L.14/Rev.1	4	[same sponsors]: revised draft resolution
E/CN.5/1991/L.15	5	Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Haiti: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1991/L.15/Rev.1	5	[same sponsors] and Nigeria: revised draft resolution

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/CN.5/1991/L.16	6 (c)	Finland, Lebanon, Netherlands and Sweden: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1991/L.17	6	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman
E/CN.5/1991/NGO/1		Statement on the International Year of the Family submitted by the Foundation for the Rights of the Family (PRODEFA), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II
E/CN.5/1991/NGO/2	4	Statement on the International Year of the Family submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Alliance of Women, International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Organization of Consumers Unions, International Planned Parenthood Federation, International Union of Family Organisations, Soroptimist International, Zonta International (category I); Associated Country Women of the World, Bahá'í International Community, Caritas Internationalis, Disabled People's International, International Catholic Child Bureau, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of Social Workers, International Federation of University Women, Italian Centre of Solidarity, Medical Women's International Association, Pax Christi, International Catholic Peace Movement, Pax Romana, Women's International Zionist Organization, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Federation of Methodist Women, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, World Vision International (category II); European Federation for the Welfare of

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
		the Elderly, HelpAge International, International Inner Wheel, International Round Table for the Advancement of Counselling (Roster)
E/CN.5/1991/NGO/3	4	Statement on the International Year of the Family submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Greek Archdiocesan Council of North and South America, International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Union of Family Organisations, Soroptimist International, Zonta International (category I); Bahá'í International Community, Caritas Internationalis, Federation of National Representations of the Experiment in International Living, International Catholic Child Bureau, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of Social Workers, International Federation of University Women, International Movement ATD Fourth World, Pan Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (category II); Catholic International Education Office, Gray Panthers, International Committee of Catholic Nurses, International Humanist and Ethical Union, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, International Society for General Semantics, World Union for Progressive Judaism (Roster).

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